

Jordan



PERMANENT MISSION OF H.K. OF JORDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Please check against delivery

*UNGA 61st Session
Second Committee
19 October 2005*

Statement by:
Mr. Basheer F. Zoubi
Deputy Permanent Representative

Agenda item: 40

“Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the Occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources ”

Madam Chair,

Allow me at the outset to thank the Secretary General and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) for their report (A/61/67-E/2006/13) under this agenda item. We also note the diversity of sources and data used to prepare this report including sources from Israeli, UN and International agencies.

The scope of repercussions of the Israeli occupation as a whole goes far beyond economic and social dimensions. Yet, the economic and social aspects of the occupation, as covered by the report at hand, are quite extensive. It can be concluded from the report that the Israeli Occupation, the illegal settlements, and the Separation Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territories have direct negative effect on economic and social lives of the people under Israeli Occupation. Following are quotations obtained from the report's summary:

- “The Israeli closure system remains a primary cause of poverty and humanitarian crisis in the Occupied Palestinian territory, and restricts Palestinian access to health and education services, employment, markets and social and religious networks.”

- “Israeli settlements, land confiscation and the construction of a barrier in the occupied Palestinian territory isolate occupied East Jerusalem, bisect the West Bank, and curtail normal economic and social life.”
- “Refugees, women and children bear a significant brunt of (the Israeli) measures. Malnutrition and other health problems afflict a growing number of Palestinians. 350,000 children under the age of five suffer from chronic malnutrition.”

It is ironic that while the whole world is working towards achieving the MDG's, we find a country that is systematically and deliberately working on undermining the MDG's situation of people under its occupation. The spillover effect of such policies on poor desperate youth is of dangerous proportions that might threaten areas extending beyond our region. In this context, one cannot but reflect on the words of Martin Luther King Jr. who once said: “injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

Madam Chair,

In October 1994, Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty ending years of conflict. A year earlier, the Government of Israel and the PLO signed the Oslo Agreement. Jordan's deliberations under this agenda item stem from its position on the necessity to achieve and maintain a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East, based on the international terms of reference of the peace process, the Arab Peace Initiative and the vision of a two-state solution as stipulated in the Road Map of the Quartet.

Unfortunately, the systematic Israeli practices hinder the sought peace and entail serious negative effects on the Road Map. Furthermore, the dangerous consequences of such policies are further exacerbated by continued defiance to our committee's relevant resolutions. In this regard, we call upon Israel to cease all settlement activities in the Occupied Territories; to stop the construction of the Separation Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territories; return the properties it seized and pay compensation for the damage incurred.

Thank You Madam Chair.....