

~~L. 29 titled "A"~~

March 24, 2010

Item 7: Follow-up to the report of the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict

Explanation of Vote by Japan

The delegation of Japan would like to make an explanation of vote on the resolution ~~L.30~~ ^{be} titled "Follow-up to the report of the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict."

As we stated earlier this week in the General Debate under Item 7, violence toward civilians by any state and any non-state actor is a violation of international humanitarian law and human rights law, and all those responsible should be held accountable and brought to justice. Thus, Japan joined the call by the General Assembly last month for the conduct of investigations that are independent, credible and in conformity with the relevant international standards.

We welcome the investigations ^{initiated} so far, and hope that they will be fully implemented

However, we must also say that the decision to establish a committee of independent experts, as referred to in OP 9, should have been made in a more cautious manner after fully deliberating on its necessity, including the necessity to avoid any duplication with the relevant procedures, the appropriateness of its mandate, the timing of its establishment and so forth. Further discussion should have been conducted to carefully consider these elements. We are also of the view that, regarding the establishment of an escrow fund referred to in OP 8, more time should have also been given to study the idea before requesting the High Commissioner to explore and determine its modalities.

Based on these considerations, Japan ^{will} abstain ~~from voting~~. Japan sincerely hopes that the discussion on this issue in the Council, including the adoption of this resolution, will not adversely affect the efforts by all parties to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

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