



# PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN  
ON BEHALF OF THE OIC MEMBER STATE**

**DURING THE  
GENERAL DEBATE UNDER AGENDA ITEM 7**

**(13<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL)**

**Geneva  
22 March 2010**

**Statement by Ambassador Zamir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the OIC, under agenda item 7, during the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council, Geneva, 22 March 2010**

I am making this statement on behalf of the Member States of the OIC.

Mr. President,

In the last forty-two years, Israel, the occupying power, has pursued a policy of wanton repression in Occupied Palestine Territories through use of disproportionate force, deliberate destruction of infrastructure, killing of civilians and eliminating the religious and cultural heritage of Palestine. Thousands of innocent Palestinians have suffered torture and other degrading punishments. Every day, thousands suffer insult at the hands of Israeli soldiers while trying to cross checkpoints. Palestinian women and children are also targets of IDF's shooting exercise while Palestinian farmers have to live under the threat of eviction to make room for illegal Jewish settlements. This can only be described as a manifestation of state terrorism.

While the world is still asking for independent investigations for the damage to Palestinian life and property by Israel's deadly attacks in Gaza that led to killing of thousands of innocent Palestinians including women and children under the guise of fighting terrorism, Israel has re-doubled its efforts to eliminate the religious and cultural heritage of Palestinians. This includes construction of synagogues on Islamic Waqf property and recent announcement to add Al-Haram al Ibrahimi in Hebron and Bilal Mosque in Bethlehem to Israel's list of national heritage sites in flagrant violation of international law.

Mr. President,

The quartet and SG UN have rightly pronounced that all Israeli settlements in the occupied areas are illegal under international law. But rejecting these calls, the Israeli Prime Minister states that "we will continue to build settlements in Jerusalem as we have done in the past 42 years". In the face of such statements, we question the pronouncements made by those who plead and promote the concepts of balance and objectivity. No amount of words can describe the situation on the ground faced by millions of Palestinians who continue to defy the worst humanitarian conditions imposed on them by Israel. The Secretary General rightly stated on Saturday that these are unacceptable and unsustainable conditions, which promote violence and fuel extremism. The OIC squarely rejects Israeli pronouncements and considers these as extremely counterproductive to the international peace efforts. Under such conditions there can be no hope for a peace process in the Middle East nor for the protection of human rights. An immediate halt to all illegal activities including settlements, human rights violations, siege and blockades but above all an end to the mother of all evils i.e. occupation will lead to the sustainable peace in the region, allowing a two state solution, which can coexist in peace and harmony.

Mr. President,

The human rights situation in the occupied Syrian Golan is also deteriorating as result of the Israeli occupation which continues to violate the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of Syrian population. The OIC has presented its traditional resolution on the Syrian Golan, which is reflective of its concerns on the continuing grave human rights situation in the area. The resolution interalia reaffirms that all measures taken or to be taken by Israel, the occupying power, that purports to alter the legal, physical and demographic status of the Occupied Syrian Golan are null and void and have no legal effect.

The OIC expresses deep concern on the incomprehensible delay in issuing the report of the Secretary General regarding the Human rights situation in the Occupied Syrian Golan. This is despite the fact that OHCHR had a whole year to work on this report and on top when full cooperation was extended by Syria to accommodate the visit of the OHCHR delegation to Syria to research, first hand, the human rights situation in the occupied Syrian Golan.

Mr. President,

The OIC has also presented its traditional resolutions on Palestine that cover the subjects of self determination of Palestinian peoples, Israeli settlements and Israeli violations of human rights in OPT. Updates in these resolutions are reflective of the developments in the last one year. We hope that the Council members will be able to support and adopt these texts by consensus.

I thank you Mr. President.