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**بعثة الجمهورية العربية السورية
الدائمة لدى الأمم المتحدة - نيويورك**



Statement

By

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Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic

to the United Nations

On Behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference

Before

The General Assembly

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Mr. President,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Mr. President,

The OIC expresses serious concerns about the grave situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular the continuing inhumane Israeli blockade and dire humanitarian crisis being imposed on the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip and the ongoing illegal colonization campaign being carried out by Israel, the occupying Power, in and around Al-Quds Al- Sharif.

The international community has witnessed and condemned the Israeli illegal and intensifying colonization measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the ongoing settlement activities, the Persistent aggression against Islamic and Christian holy places in Al-Quds Al- Sharif, the transfer of more Israeli settlers, the continued construction of the Separation Wall in and around the Holy City including changing of its demographics and geographic character, the restrictions on the freedom of movement of Palestinian citizens, their unlawful detention, the demolition of the Palestinian houses, and in particular the continued digging and excavation work in and around Al-Aqsa mosque and its vicinity.

The OIC emphasizes that the question of the Holy Haram in Al Quds is a red line that cannot be addressed with laxity or be subject of any debate, and that any prejudice to the holy Mosque of Al Aqsa, will have very serious repercussions for the Islamic world and is likely to destabilize the region.

The OIC affirms its unwavering support for the stand of the State of Palestine based on commitment to the right of sovereignty over the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, including Al-Quds Al- Sharif, the Holy Haram in Al-Quds Al-Sharif and all Christians and Muslim holy places, which are part of the Palestinian territories occupied since June 1967. It also emphasizes that Al-Quds is the capital of the independent State of Palestine, and, in this regard, rejects any attempt to undermine the Palestinian right of sovereignty over Al-Quds Al- Sharif.

Mr. President,

We strongly condemn the attacks by the Israeli occupying forces, including extremist settlers, perpetrated against Palestinian civilians and worshippers at Al-Aqsa Mosque and Al-Haram Al-Sharif compound in Occupied Al-Quds Al- Sharif that took place recently. Our group reiterates its condemnation of Israel's persistent aggression against Islamic and Christian holy places in Al-Quds Al-Sharif and against the Palestinian inhabitants of the Holy City, which continues to cause rising tensions and mounting difficulties for the Palestinian inhabitants of the City in all spheres of life. The new chapter of this ongoing aggression is the constant saga of terror by Israel, the occupying Power, which began on 27 September 2009 with its excavation activity that seeks to undermine the symbolic and sacred significance to Muslims throughout the world and to the Islamic faith itself..

Mr. President,

Early this year, the International community witnessed with horror the events in the Occupied Gaza Strip. The Goldstone Report confirmed international community's worst fears of committing war crimes and crimes against humanity including willful killings, deliberate attacks on civilian objects, wanton destruction of civilian property, indiscriminate attacks, the use of human shields and collective punishment against Gaza's civilian population in the form of a continuing blockade by Israel during the Israeli aggression on Gaza Strip and afterward till this very moment.

The OIC welcomes the adoption of Resolution 64/10 dated November 5th, 2009 by the General Assembly on the "Follow up to the report of the UN Fact Finding Mission on Gaza Conflict". The Group is of the view, that this Resolution constitutes an important first step in remedying these Israeli violations which were authenticated and confirmed with evidence in the Goldstone Reports. Thus, more actions are yet to be taken by the relevant UN organs and bodies, including by the Security Council in order to bring the Israeli perpetrators of these crimes to justice, and to put an end to the Israeli impunity and above-the-law attitude.

Mr. President,

Israel has left behind much more than dead and injured Palestinians in the bleeding Strip of Gaza. Israeli jets, tanks and battleships could see only

one target on their radar screens: Civilians. And yet they fired. This was documented by a UN team and therefore, Israel has left the UN in a situation whereby it has either to react or to tell us why not?

Mr. President,

The OIC remains deeply concerned by Israel's ongoing air and land violations of Lebanon's sovereignty, in breach of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), and calls on Israel to withdraw fully from the remaining Lebanese occupied land in the Sheba'a farms, the Kfar Shouba Hills and the northern part of al-Ghajar village.

The OIC also reaffirms that all measures and actions taken, or to be taken, by Israel, the occupying Power, to alter the legal, physical and demographic status of the occupied Syrian Golan and its institutional structure, as well as the Israeli measures to impose jurisdiction and administration there, are null and void and have no legal effect. The OIC demands that Israel abide by Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and withdraw fully from the occupied Syrian Golan to the lines of 4 June 1967, in implementation also of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

Mr. President,

The OIC calls for an intensification of efforts by the international community aimed at accelerating the process of achieving a just and comprehensive peace settlement on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Roadmap. The OIC reiterates in this regard its firm and unwavering support for the just cause of Palestine. The OIC calls for the speedy realization by the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights, including their right to self-determination, with the establishment of their independent State of Palestine, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, and a just solution for the plight of the Palestine refugees on the basis of General Assembly resolution 194 (III).

I thank you, Mr. President