

Statement by the Bangladesh Delegation at the Special Session of the Human Rights Council on Palestine, 15 November 2006

Mr. President,

My Delegation associates itself with the statements made by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC Group and Cuba on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. President,

The incident of Beit Hanoun is appalling. 20 Palestinian civilians were killed, 40 others injured in a single Israeli bombardment. Many of the victims are innocent women and children. It happened when they were sleeping. The massacre has shocked the world conscience. The civilized society does not have any word strong enough to express its indignation. This heinous act of killing by Israel is contrary to civilized human behavior. This is not the first time Israel committed such crime. The world cannot sit still Israel conducts its aggression and such barbaric acts with impunity.

Since launching of the recent Israeli operations in Gaza, hundreds of Palestinian civilians have been killed, and many more injured by Israeli attacks. The situation is very grave and it is deteriorating every day with more deaths, more destruction. This brutal and disproportionate use of force is a flagrant violation of human rights and international humanitarian laws. The international community has expressed grave concern at the prevailing situation in the occupied territories. The Israeli actions are illegal and clear breach of the fourth Geneva Convention. These are crimes against humanity and subjected to international criminal law. These violations cannot be condoned.

Bangladesh calls for an immediate end to such atrocities committed by Israeli forces against the Palestinian people. Israeli occupation of Palestine and other occupied territories represents an utter violation and persistent disregard for human rights and international humanitarian law. We demand immediate and complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied territories.

I reaffirm Bangladesh's total and unflinching support to the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people for a sovereign and independent homeland of their own. We firmly believe that lasting and viable peace in the region cannot be achieved until the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people are recognized and the Israeli occupation forces withdraw from occupied territory.

We call upon all parties concerned for immediate resumption of the peace process aimed at a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement in the region.

Mr. President,

It is incumbent upon this Council to take a clear and unequivocal stand on the flagrant defiance of international law, particularly on the violation of fundamental human rights by Israel. The adoption of the resolution on the table will attest to this commitment and conviction.

We fully support the resolution and we hope it will be adopted with broadest consensus.