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Statement

by

**H.E. Mr. Alireza Moaiyeri
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of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

before

“the 3rd Special Session of the Human Rights Council”

on

**the Israeli Military Incursions in the Occupied Palestinian
Territory including the recent one in Northern
Gaza and the Siege of
Beit Hanoun**

Geneva, 15 November 2006

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In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. President,

At a time when the Palestinian people are already suffering from a grave deterioration of their humanitarian situation as a result of the blockade imposed on them for having democratically elected their Government, the Israeli regime has escalated yet again another round of aggressions in Palestinian territory, especially in the Gaza Strip and in Beit Hanoun.

Regrettably, the recent Israeli massacre perpetrated in the Gaza Strip, including in Beit Hanoun has far led to the death of more than 100 civilians, including many women and children, and the wounding of over 350. Some of these attacks have occurred while people were sleeping in their home. To add to the misery and sufferings of the innocent Palestinian civilians, the Israeli regime has in many cases even blocked medical crew from accessing the injured and the dead in Beit Hanoun and placed the hospitals in the area under siege.

Moreover, and based on Palestinian officials have said, the destruction wreaked by the latest Israeli aggression on Beit Hanoun is worse than anything the town has suffered in past Israeli aggressions. The Gaza Strip, in fact, has been converted into a vast prison for the entire population that has been living in fear. Such barbarism could not be justified in the name of self – defense; rather, it is more akin to an act of blind revenge.

The magnitude of the crimes of the Israeli regime in Gaza has been partly reflected in the recent statement of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territories, which calls that the brutal collective punishment of a people has gone largely unnoticed by the international community.

Regrettably, all these terrorist designs and the ones committed previously against the Palestinian people have been going on while there has been meaningful failure in cooperation for the implementation of the resolution adopted by the first special session of the Human Rights Council. Indeed, the impunity with which Israel has been allowed to carry out its crimes so far and even increase its aggressive policies and terrorist acts against innocent civilians under false pretext.

Mr. President,

As the ongoing aggression seriously violates international human rights and humanitarian law, including the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, the Human Rights Council has an enormous responsibility to take necessary and prompt steps with a view to putting an end to this aggression and the protection of civilians from murder, devastation and human rights violation.

We hope that, through recognizing the need for taking a decisive action in the face of this new escalation in the region, all members of the Council will live up to their responsibilities in properly addressing this grave violation of human rights and as first step in this regard adopt the draft resolution before the Human Rights Council and make sure that all previous resolution are implemented.

Thank you