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**Statement by Ambassador Zamir Akram, on behalf of the OIC,  
during the Urgent Debate of the Human Rights Council to  
discuss the ongoing situation caused by Israeli attacks on the  
Flotilla Ships carrying humanitarian aid to Occupied Gaza, on  
1<sup>st</sup> June 2010, Geneva**

Mr. President,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the member states of the OIC.

We welcome holding of this urgent debate of the human rights council to discuss the ongoing human tragedy caused by the unprovoked, outrageous and unjustified attacks by Israeli forces on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian aid to occupied Gaza that resulted in the loss of lives and injuries to many defenceless civilians.

The OIC would like to reiterate its strong condemnation of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupation forces against these innocent people. Our heartfelt sympathies go to the victims of the Israeli attacks. These are blatant violations of international human rights and humanitarian laws for which Israeli forces and leadership are fully responsible and must be held accountable. They should no longer be allowed to hide behind the facade of fighting so-called terrorism to unleash a reign of terror on innocent Palestinians and now on other nationalities as well.

We welcome the strong condemnatory statements made by the UN Secretary General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights on this bloodshed caused by the deadly Israeli raid. We fully support their call for independent, credible and immediate investigations, into this violation of international law by Israel, with a view to taking strong legal action against those responsible. We also support the High Commissioner's call for immediately lifting the inhuman and illegal blockade imposed by the occupying power Israel on the people of occupied Gaza since 2007 which has denied the people of Occupied Gaza the right to a bare minimum decent and dignified life.

The OIC also appreciates the strong words of support expressed by the leadership from round the globe. We look forward to translation of these words into meaningful actions on ground, leading to tangible relief in the lives of millions of Palestinians, suffering under the yoke of Israeli occupation for the last six decades.

Mr. President,

These murderous attacks are characteristic tools used by Israel to derail every peaceful effort and silence every voice of moderation and reason. These Israeli attacks are a brutal reminder to the international community of its continuing violations of all human rights and total disregard for the international human rights and humanitarian laws. The absolute impunity provided to Israel by some World powers has led to continuing Israeli violations of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and has been now extended to innocent people in international waters.

The High Commissioner is right to point out that nothing can justify the appalling outcome of this operation. She recalled that the three years old illegal and inhuman blockade of Gaza lies at the heart of the many problems plaguing the Israeli – Palestinian conflict. Obviously without the blockade, there would have not been the need for such a flotilla of ships with humanitarian supplies.

The Special Rapporteur on Occupied Palestinian Territories has, therefore, rightly stated that Israel is guilty of shocking behaviour by using deadly weapons against unarmed civilians and ships that were situated on the high seas, where freedom of navigation exists. He echoed the calls by the SG and HC for independent investigations calling “it is essential that those Israelis responsible for this lawless and murderous behaviour, including political leaders who issued the orders, be held criminally accountable for their wrongful acts”. We fully support this call and hope the Council will decide on the most appropriate manner to hold independent, credible and timely investigations into the matter.

Mr. President,

The OIC calls upon the Occupying Power Israel to :

- desist from further human rights violations in the OPT;
- immediately lift the siege imposed on the Occupied Gaza and ensure full, timely and constant supply of all needed humanitarian assistance in the area;
- ensure health and safety of all detainees; release all detained men and material and ensure their safe return to their homelands forthwith;
- fully cooperate with the international independent investigations into these violations of human rights law with a view to fixing responsibility and holding accountable those responsible for these heinous crimes.

Mr. President,

The OIC, together with the Arab Group, has presented a short and factual draft resolution for the consideration of the Members of the Human Rights Council. We are confident that this most pertinent resolution will be adopted by the Council with consensus.

I thank you Mr. President.

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