



CHAIR OF
THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
ELEVENTH SESSION

Resfel Pino Álvarez

**STATEMENT BY H.E. JUAN ANTONIO FERNÁNDEZ
AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA,
ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**

(Check against delivery)

Follow up to special sessions under agenda item 7

Geneva, 15 June 2009

Mr. President,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. President,

Unfortunately, this Council has had the need to meet several times in special sessions to address the situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories. The continued violations of human rights by Israel, the Occupying Power, against the Palestinian people, have so demanded.

Since the last follow up to the special sessions carried out by the Council, last March, not much has changed. The situation remains the same. None of the recommendations of the high-level mission to Beit Hanoun have been implemented by Israel; neither the various calls by the Human Rights Council.

The critical human rights situation in Beit Hanoun described by the Mission have significantly worsened since the adoption of the Council resolution 9/18. The 19-month blockade by Israel and its large-scale military aggression to Gaza from 27 December 2008 to 18 January 2009 have contributed to that.

The victims of the shelling of Beit Hanoun of 8 November 2006 remain without effective protection and meaningful reparation. No effective accountability process has been established, and no public and independent investigation has been carried out to determine those responsible for this murderous act.

Mr. President,

Along with other partners, the NAM called for the convening of the ninth special session. The NAM strongly condemned the military aggression, including air strikes and ground invasion, carried out by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Gaza Strip.

In this context, the NAM welcomes the appointment of the independent international fact-finding mission decided by resolution S-9/1. We recognize the integrity and competence of the members of the Mission, headed by the prominent South African Judge Richard Goldstone. And in that regard we strongly regret Israel's decision not to cooperate with and obstruct the work of the Mission.

As commented by the Special Rapporteur during the 10th session, there are indications that war crimes and crimes against humanity

might have been committed by the Occupying Power during the Gaza aggression. We call for the establishment of an accountability process, as provided for in international law, to hold accountable those responsible for gross violations of IHL.

As we have said before, the Movement is convinced that there is no military solution to the conflict, and that a peaceful solution is the only possible.

It is time to build peace, to build a better future for the peoples of the Middle East, and to ensure that the Palestinian people fully exercise its right to live in a free, independent and sovereign State of Palestine, on the basis of the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

I thank you.