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Statement by

the Islamic Republic of Iran

On the Update Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights before the 3rd Session of the Human Rights Council

Geneva, 29 November 2006

Mr. President

My delegation expresses its appreciation to the High Commissioner for Human Rights for her visit to the Occupied Palestinian Territories and the report thereon. As highlighted in her report, the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories is grave and worsening within a general climate of impunity. Yet, we believe that this visit should not be a substitute to the mandate and visit of the Special Rapporture and Fact-Finding Commission.

Still, we have two general points to make:

It is extremely vital that while addressing the human rights situations, the relevant human rights mechanisms must consider to avoid dramatizing and exaggerating the less serious situations at the cost of diminishing the causes and consequences of violations within the context of grave situations emanating from occupation such as the one being occurred in the Palestinian Occupied Territories which is tantamount to crimes against humanity. Moreover, while examining the violation of human rights in the occupied territories, one should not and cannot equate the occupiers grave and widespread criminal acts with the sporadic activities of a defensive nature by the people living under foreign occupation. In this context, we wonder whether the report of the High Commissioner addressing situations was balanced and reflected realities. Hence, we hope that the next report of the High Commissioner observe the principle of fairness and thus reflect the situations as emerging on the ground.

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On Iraq our question is that how far the military presence of foreign occupying powers and their military operations are contributing to the violation of human rights particularly the right to life of the Iraqi people.

Mr. President

Finally, we look forward to hear from the High Commissioner about her visit to Canada and the situation in this country notably on indigenous people.

Thank You