

Geneva, 12 December 2006

**Palestine Statement at the Fourth Special Session of the Human Rights Council on
Darfur**

Mr. President
Distinguished Delegates

The delegation of Palestine associates itself with the statements made by his Excellency the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Arab Group, his Excellency the Ambassador of Pakistan on behalf of the OIC countries, and his Excellency the Ambassador of Algeria on behalf of the African Group.

We are rather overwhelmed by the alarming paradoxes we are witnessing in this special session. First, the Secretary General chose to deliver a televised message to this Council on the occasion of the special session on Darfur, while he failed to address this Council in the previous special sessions on Palestine and Lebanon. Is it a coincidence that the Secretary General intercedes in the special session on Darfur, which was initiated by the Western Group?

Second, we are rather impressed by the new talents of eloquence and advocacy manifested by the High Commissioner in her statement on Darfur. Something, we would have loved to discover ~~in~~ in her two orphan statements on the grave human rights violations by the occupying power, Israel. We are also impressed by the overflowing number of reports on the situation in Darfur issued by her office. We wonder why the High Commissioner did not issue any single report on the ubiquitous Israeli violations of human rights in Palestine to be provided during the special sessions thereon.

Third, we are amused to see Israel cosponsoring the draft resolution on the human rights situation in Darfur. It is appropriate here to quote Jesus Christ, peace be upon him, saying: "What are you looking at the straw in your brother's eye for? And the beam in your own eye, do you not notice it?" (Luke 6:41)." Israel supports the dispatching of an urgent mission to Darfur headed by the Special Rapporteur, while it has obstructed the mission of the Special Rapporteur on Palestine and blocked the Commission on the Israeli massacre in Beit Hanoun, headed by the Nobel Laureate Desmond Tutu, who has expressed his tremendous distress from Israel's failure to allow access for the Commission.

In closing, we commend the efforts of the Government of Sudan and the African Union in addressing the situation in Darfur and we call upon this Council and members of the international community at large to assist the Government of Sudan in its endeavors to spread peace and tranquility in Darfur. We urge that the resolution to be adopted by this Council not to reflect the concerns of a single group only but to endorse the concerns of the African group as well, which is the primary concerned group.