Statement by the Palestinian representative at the 30th session of the UN Human Rights Council, agenda item 7

September 28, 2015

http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/human-rights-council/regular-sessions/30th-session/watch/item7-general-debate-29th-meeting-30th-regular-session-human-rights-council/4514804577001

Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to thank the states that have come here today to join the discussion on item 7, the Israeli occupation of the occupied Palestinian territories. We regret, however, that a great number of countries have refrained from joining this discussion and we would like to urge them to come and join us as soon as possible because if a number of countries continue to boycott us, then the credibility of this Council will be compromised and will highlight double standards.

The occupation policy, which is illustrated by premeditated acts and attacks, including by Israelis against Palestinians, and which is also illustrated by the occupation of a large part of Palestine by Israel, calls for a condemnation today. Indeed, we firmly condemn the human rights violations and terrorist acts that have taken place, in particular, the fire that cost the lives of a family in the Palestinian territories recently. The Dawabsha family was struck by a shell, their house burned down, and several family members lost their lives. We once again condemn the Israeli occupying power, which defies international law, and which continues to commit international crimes against international law.

We also condemn illegal policies. Provocations are continuing on the part of Israel, the occupying power, against Palestinians. Indeed, attacks against the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Haram Al Sharif continue. There have been attacks against the Al Aqsa Mosque, which have entailed a number of casualties. The occupying power has used gas and rubber balls to fight in that situation. And indeed, recently Israel has authorized live bullets to counter peaceful demonstrators, and this in defiance of international appeals to greater restraint, to put an end to such provocations and to cease using tear gas and so on.

Despite this, Israel, as the occupying power, is continuing to exercise these attacks and provocations against Palestinians. And indeed, the Prime Minister has ordered the establishing of a number of check points in East Jerusalem and has called on 800 reservists of the Israeli army. I would also recall that they have prohibited the entry of the faithful into the Al Aqsa Mosque. Just this morning, Israel carried out an attack against the Palestinian faithful who had come together in Al Aqsa to pray. Up to now, there have been 17 persons injured, including 12 who are severely injured.

In this context, I would like to recall once more that we cannot make a distinction between the terrorism of the Israeli settlers, and on the other hand, the illegitimate colonization policy carried out by Israel, because this flies in the face of international law and international criminal law, as well as the Rome statute. This kind of policy only enshrines colonization and Israeli occupation and undermines the two-state solution.

In this context, we urge Israel to put an end to its colonization policy, to take its responsibilities, given the international will, and to stop the attacks against Palestinians, to respect the rights of the population they are occupying.

We call upon the international community to help stop the settlement policy and to refrain from supporting the Israeli government in this directly or indirectly so as to ensure that the Palestinian people can exercise its right to self-determination. Importing Israeli goods would be equivalent to supporting this policy, which violates international law officially.

We would ask Israel, the occupying power, to respect the legal view of the International Court of Justice with respect to the construction of the separation barrier between Palestine and Israel.

And, Mr. President, Gaza also remains under a blockade, established by Israel. This is a land, air and sea blockade, which has continued for over 9 years now, and this constitutes and unacceptable collective punishment, which could be assimilated to a war crime and a crime against humanity. Indeed, the reconstruction of thousands of buildings destroyed during Israel’s incursion into Gaza is impossible, and this is due to the prohibition against the delivery of any kinds of construction materials.

The Palestinian people were victims of an action, 150 Palestinians were arrested, including children. These detainees have been subjected to ill treatment and torture, in blatant violation of international law. Israel, the occupying power, must respects its obligations, in particular under the 4th Geneva Convention.