

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Permanent Mission of the  
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
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New York



البعثة الدائمة  
لدولة الامارات العربية المتحدة  
لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

Statement by

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Member of the Delegation of the United Arab Emirates

before

the Fourth Committee  
Special Political & Decolonization  
61<sup>st</sup> Session of the General Assembly

on the item entitled:

**“Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting  
the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other  
Arabs of the Occupied Territories”**

New York, 6 November, 2006

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Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Delegation of the United Arab Emirates, it gives me great pleasure to thank the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the valuable reports issued on this item. I would also like to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, for its vital efforts to uncover the facts surrounding the increasing suffering of the Arab population resulting from the continued Israeli occupation of their territories.

Mr. Chairman,

Over the past 38 years since the establishment of this Committee, and inspite of the obstacles placed by the Israeli Government in the way of the Committee to prevent its personnel from having access to the Palestinian and Syrian occupied territories and carrying out its investigations in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the measures taken to blackout information on the inhumane practices and violations of human rights committed in these occupied territories could not hide the magnitude or the facts surrounding these crimes, which have become more heinous in the recent years due to the inability of the international community to confront them.

The report of the Committee on this item has clearly indicated through facts and figures the grave deterioration of human rights and the fundamental freedoms of the Arab population in the Palestinian and Syrian occupied territories, particularly after such practices involved the systematic occupation of the Palestinian lands, demolition of their homes and farmlands, the uprooting of trees, destruction of private and public properties, pillaging natural resources, looting cultural heritage, preventing freedom of worship, and desecration of holy places. Practices have also encompassed the increase of arbitrary arrests and extrajudicial killings of innocent people including children, women and the elderly, subjecting the population to collective punishments, causing extensive destruction in the infrastructure, particularly in the power stations and water plants in Gaza, launching repeated military attacks against their territories, and laying siege and blockades on crossing points in towns and villages with a view to cutting off their communities, which have resulted in preventing them from having access to schools and hospitals, and impeded access for the humanitarian and medical assistance to the affected areas. Israel has also withheld the funds of the Palestinian Authority leaving it unable to pay its civil servants for more than 8 consecutive months, which has resulted in affecting all aspects of the daily life of Palestinians, and exacerbated the existing high levels of poverty among those who become deprived of the most basic means of subsistence. All these measures led to the deepening of the feelings of anger and despair among the Palestinians, especially since these measures coincided with the suspension of financial assistance provided by States and donors to the Palestinian people after the election of the Hamas Government.

Mr. Chairman,

The UAE strongly condemns and denounces the current Israeli military operation in Gaza, which has claimed the lives of dozens of civilian deaths and injuries, as well as its other practices which were referred to in the Committee's report and included the ongoing campaign of building settlements and an expansionist wall in the Palestinian territories, in absolute disregard of the decision of the International Court of Justice. Israel has also adopted other unilateral and illegal measures which are incompatible with international humanitarian law and the fundamental human rights, including the rights to life, food, housing, movement and self-determination, and which could jeopardize the viability of a two-state solution. The UAE expresses its full support to the Committee's position which emphasizes the need for the international community to end, by all means available, the impunity with which Israel had been allowed to carry out its practices in the occupied Palestinian and Syrian territories.

In that context, we also call upon the international community to take effective and urgent measures in accordance with the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Committee's report which must include the imposition of sanctions on Israel if it continues its disregard for all international obligations which call for ceasing all inhumane and illegal crimes committed in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories. An international commission of inquiry should also be dispatched to these territories as soon as possible in order to investigate these crimes pursuant to the Human Rights Council resolutions and in order to reveal the full truth and compel Israel to pay appropriate compensations for the tremendous multiple damages caused to the Palestinian and Syrian populations in the occupied territories.

Finally, the UAE which reiterates the primary responsibility of the international community, particularly the UN, to resolve the Question of Palestine and the Middle East, calls upon the States and donors to reconsider their decision to suspend all financial and economic assistance directed to the Palestinian people, who are besieged in their territories, in order to enable them to overcome the current humanitarian crisis and save the situation, which may lead, if not urgently contained, to exploding the security situation not only in the occupied territories, but in the entire region.

Thank you Mr. Chairman,