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**Statement**

**by**

**H.E. Mr. Alireza MOAIYERI**

**Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

**before**

**the Special Session of the Human Rights Council**

**on the**

***Situation in the occupied Palestinian Territories***

**Geneva, 5<sup>th</sup> July 2006**

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**Mr. President,**

For more than half a century the people of Palestine, and other occupied Arab territories, have been victims of a great injustice and human rights abuses. Once more, these people are experiencing yet another military invasion by the occupying Power which goes on in flagrant defiance of the most basic principles of international law and the fundamental provisions of the United Nations Charter.

The current developments taking place on the ground abundantly suggest that the systematic pattern of human rights violations, massive breaches of international law and international humanitarian law by Israel have been continuing unabated, resulting in targeting civilians and purely civilian infrastructures, and bombarding the Gaza Strip with heavy artillery fire from the air. The Palestinian economy already strangled under an unjust embargo since January and the Palestinians remaining under siege.

Indeed such acts served as collective punishment and war crime which were banned by the Geneva Convention and constitute violation of international human rights law.

There should be no doubt that the new round of aggression pursues more important political and strategic objectives, which includes the undermining of the democratically-elected Palestinian Government. The abduction and illegal detention of dozens of the Palestinian cabinet ministers and members of the Palestinian Parliament, who took office as a result of a free and fair election, is a direct threat to the existence of Palestinian institutions.

**Mr. President,**

At a time when the international community strives for promotion and protection of human rights and ending impunity, the credibility and legitimacy of this Council require that this august body urgently and effectively addresses the grave and worsening human rights and humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestine territories and Syrian's Golan.

The Human Rights Council as the primary and new human rights body should take concrete measures with a view to preventing the occupying regime from continuing to flout the will of the international community, incorporated in numerous resolutions of the UN and the Commission on Human Rights. We hope that, through recognizing the need for taking a decisive action in the face of this new escalation in the region, all members of the Council will live up to their responsibilities in properly addressing the grave situation created in the wake of the latest aggression.

The Council cannot and should not turn a blind eye to such a critical situation. A failure to do so would only serve to bolster the occupying Power's impunity.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights, which has the primary responsibility to protect and promote human rights, should live up to this immense duty by preventing

Israel from continuing to commit atrocities through an urgent visit to the Occupied Palestinian territories and submit a report on the Israeli human rights violations to the Council.

**Thank you**