



PAKISTAN

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STATEMENT
BY
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ON BEHALF OF
THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

ON AGENDA ITEM 7
“HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN PALESTINE AND
OTHER OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES”

AT THE
8TH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Geneva,
16 June 2008



**Statement by Ambassador Masood Khan, Permanent Representative of
Pakistan on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, on
Agenda Item 7, "Human Rights Situation in Palestine and Other Occupied
Arab Territories", Geneva, 16 June 2008**

Mr. President,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the OIC.

The High Commissioner's report on the "Human Rights Situation in Palestine and other Occupied Arab Territories" indicates continuation of a familiar pattern of abuses and impunity by Israel, the occupying power during the reporting period. The situation as it stands today is grave and disappointing. Israel continues to build settlements in the occupied territories, a separation wall straddles across Arab territories disrupting the livelihood of thousands of villagers, the besieged occupied people suffer from obstructions even on free movement of essential items. And a long and painful occupation, with no sign of ending, continues.

According to OCHA, in the reporting period 221 Palestinians including 51 children and 7 women were killed in conditions created by Israel's 75 air attacks and 30 military incursions in Gaza and 348 in various locations of the West Bank. The occupied Palestinians were subjected to the use of disproportionate force, deliberate destruction of infrastructure and large scale demolition of educational and religious institutions. Their fundamental rights including right to life, religion, food, water, education, and health were violated. Over eighty percents of the Gazans suffer from slowing down of economic activities and persistent shortages.

The OIC condemns these acts as they grossly violate the international human rights and international humanitarian law.

Mr. President,

The root cause of all violence, insecurity and instability in the region is Israel's protracted and forcible occupation of Palestinian and other Arab territories. If violence and retaliation is to be effectively countered, the international community will need to step up its efforts to end this occupation.

Israel should support, not undermine, an amicable solution of Palestinian issue on the basis of the Security Council resolutions, the Quartet's Road Map and the targets outlined in the outcome of the Annapolis Summit.

Mr. President,

The OIC countries express their deepest concern over the inhuman conditions of detention of more than 11,000 Arab detainees in Israeli prisons. The OIC calls for the implementation of the resolution number A/HRC/7/30 which calls for the immediate release of all Syrian citizens in Israeli prisons. This

carries special importance today, to uphold the credibility of our Council and human rights of 2 ailing prisoners who need urgent medical attention and whose lives are in fact in danger.

Mr. President,

It is regrettable that Israel once again chose to disregard the recommendations of the High Commissioner regarding Gaza and human rights of the occupied Palestinian people. This Council must fulfil it's a responsibility to the Palestinian people. Israel, the occupying power, must immediately stop its policy of death and destruction of a nation that is demanding its inalienable right to self determination.

I thank you, Mr. President.