



Jordan

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN**

**DR. ADEL ADAILEH
MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY**

BEFORE THE FOURTH COMMITTEE

ON THE

**AGENDA ITEM (32)
“REPORT OF THE 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

Mr. Chairman

At the outset allow me to extend my government's appreciation to His Excellency Ambassador Prasad Kariyawasam, Chairman of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories for his detailed presentation. My delegation would also like to commend the work of the Committee, and welcome its report, conclusions and recommendations therein.

We believe that the Committee should continue to carry out its mandate until Israel ends its occupation of Palestinian and other Arab territories and a final peace agreement is reached. We urge Israel to cooperate with the Committee, and facilitate its access to the Occupied Territories in such a way that would enable the committee to exchange direct views with all concerned parties.

Mr. Chairman

Jordan continues to work towards achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. A solution to the Arab Israeli conflict can be achieved through ending Israeli occupation which started in 1967 on the basis of Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242, 338, 1397 and 1515, towards establishing an independent Palestinian state living side by side with Israel in peace. The international community, and through the Quartet mechanism, should continue to assist the parties and facilitate their return to a substantive political process, resume negotiations, prevent further deterioration and reverse the grave humanitarian and economic situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

The Question of Palestine is the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Its resolution cannot be achieved through unilateral measures and/or irresponsible actions. Building a separation wall would not contribute to peace. Peace in the Middle East can only be achieved through partnership, mutual trust and respect of the fundamental rights of its peoples.

Mr. Chairman

The report of the Special Committee to investigate Israeli practices affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People found in document A/61/500, as well as the Special Report of the Commission on Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories found in document A/61/470, indicate that the humanitarian situation in the West Bank and Gaza has deteriorated to a dangerous level.

The living conditions of the Palestinian people continue to deteriorate. The rate of unemployment increased to 55% due to Israeli closures. While poverty rates stand at 50-70% depending on the location in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

The Israeli military has maintained its "shelling" of Gaza with an estimated 200 to 250 bombs each day. The number of casualties has increased since the second Intifada in 2000. Already, some 5000 Palestinians have been killed, and more than 33,000 have been injured. A very large number of Palestinians have been detained and remain in Israeli jails. Furthermore, targeted killings have continued.

The number of checkpoints has increased to over 550 checkpoints, and the West Bank is now divided into four distinct areas with Palestinian cities cut-off from each other, making it virtually impossible for most Palestinian residents to enter or exit from their towns.

Mr. Chairman

What I have highlighted above is just a fraction of what the Palestinian people endure on daily basis on the ground. Notwithstanding the continuing settlement activity, construction of the separation wall, and the demolition of houses and uprooting of trees which have become a standard in Israeli policy towards the Palestinians.

The Government of Israel continues its unlawful settlement activity in contravention with international law, particularly article 49 Paragraph 6 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and in violation of Israel's obligations under the roadmap.

Moreover, the Israeli Government continues to construct the separation wall in Palestinian Territory, despite the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice of 9 July 2004, and General Assembly resolution ES10-15, which asserted that the construction of the separation wall is contrary to international law, that it must be discontinued, and what has already been erected of the wall should be dismantled.

Mr. Chairman

My delegation calls on the Israeli Government to implement its obligations under the Agreement on Movement and Access and guarantee free movement of persons, goods and facilitate humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians. This would assist in the process of rebuilding confidence between the two parties.

Mr. Chairman

The Israeli practices in the Golan Heights including the continuing settlement activity, are also in violation of International Law and of the Geneva Convention.

We call on Israel to desist from all illegal practices in the Arab Occupied Territories, and urge all concerned parties to work towards achieving just and lasting peace in the region where people have suffered for long.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.