

Statement by Tehmina Janjua Pakistan Deputy Permanent Representative
on behalf of the OIC on the
Follow-up to the First Special Session of the Human Rights Council
On the Human rights Situation in Occupied Palestinian Territory
September 29, 2006

Mr. President,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the OIC. We thank Mr. John Dugard, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, for his report.

The Council, in accordance with para 10 of UNGA resolution 60/251, met for its first Special Session in July this year to examine the grave situation of human rights in Occupied Palestinian Territory caused by occupation, especially extensive Israeli operations against the Palestinians.

The Council adopted resolution S-1/Res.1 demanding an end to military operations; abiding scrupulously by the provisions of international humanitarian law and human rights law and to refrain from imposing collective punishment on Palestinian civilians. It also urged Israel to immediately release the arrested Palestinian ministers, members of the Palestinian legislative council and other officials as well as all other arrested Palestinian civilians.

The Council decided to dispatch an urgent fact finding mission headed by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967.

Resolution S-1/Res.1 remains unimplemented. The fact finding mission has not been able to undertake its mission. It has not been permitted to enter the Palestinian Territories.

The lack of implementation of resolutions of the Council needs serious consideration. The Council should consider how implementation of its resolutions can be ensured. A resolution, once adopted by the Council, whether by vote or through consensus, has equal legitimacy. This is a well accepted democratic principle. We should all work for the immediate implementation of Resolution S-1/Res.1.

Since the Special Rapporteur reported on the situation of human rights in occupied Palestinian Territory, earlier this year, the situation has worsened. Mr. John Dugard reported an alarming picture of the situation on ground. The withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces from Gaza was followed by further deterioration of the situation of the Palestinian people.

Legitimate Palestinian space is shrinking fast with expanded settlements, the continued construction of the separation wall and forced demographic changes in

East Jerusalem. The Palestinians suffer from persistent and systematic violations of human rights and humanitarian law in Gaza and the West Bank.

Since the adoption of the resolution of the Council, the situation has further deteriorated. Kidnapped Palestinian Ministers and Law makers and officials remain in captivity. The Palestinian people are faced with an economic blockade that has even hindered access to medicine. We continue to get reports of horror women giving birth at check points owing to denial of access by Israel to hospitals.

The OIC reiterates that the urgent implementation of the resolution adopted by the Special Session is imperative for the human rights situation of the Palestinian people to ameliorate. The economic blockade of Gaza strip must come to an end to allow the Palestinian access to basic necessities. Human rights violations should end. The international community cannot stand by and remain silent at the daily humiliations suffered by all Palestinians including the elderly, women and children. Humanity must prevail.

We must intensify efforts to find peace and security in the Middle East without which occupation will continue leading to human rights violations.

Thank you, Mr. President.