

**Permanent Observer  
Mission of Palestine  
to the United Nations  
Geneva**



البعثة المراقبة الدائمة  
لفلسطين  
لدى الأمم المتحدة في جنيف

## **Palestine Intervention**

by

**Dr. Mohammad Abu-Koash  
Ambassador of Palestine to the United Nations, Geneva**

before

**The Third Session of the Human Rights Council**

on

**Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory:  
Follow-up on the Human Rights Council resolution S-1/Res.1**

**Geneva, 8 December 2006**

The Israeli repetitive statements remind me of the aimless exchange between the two protagonists in Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* . In the play Godot does not come, just like the promised two-state vision whose implementation is overdue and has not come into being. The Palestinian People have been waiting for decades for the exercise of their national rights including the right to self determination and independence and have been overwhelmed by peace initiatives that were never implemented owing to the opposition by the occupying power, Israel, the worst violator of international law including international humanitarian law and human rights law. Indeed the very creation of Israel was through gross violations of these laws including massacres, dispossession and forced eviction of Palestinians. These are the facts of history and the Israeli delegation is rewriting and manufacturing not merely history, as is done in Orwell's *1984* but also reverses current facts in depicting the occupier as a victim and the occupied as the aggressor.

Israel places itself above international law and above the decisions of this Council, and that is why it has not implemented resolution S-1/Res.1 of 6 July 2006 and obstructed the fact-finding mission headed by the Special Rapporteur on Palestine. The authority of this new body is being challenged by a non-complying occupying power. Israel is encouraged by, inter alia, certain officials and diplomats who , like one of the protagonists in *Waiting for Godot* , have very weak left lungs and right lungs that are “ as sound as a bell”. In issues concerning Palestine they utilise the weak left lung, while they utilise the sound lung in other issues serving Israel and the logic of power. The contradiction between their advocacy of human rights and their stance on the Israeli violations thereof, is similar to the contradiction between words and action in the final lines of the mentioned play:

**Vladimir:** Well? Shall we go?

**Estragon:** Yes, Let's go

*They do not move*

Finally, we are not waiting for Godot, we are waiting for an Israeli General de Gaulle.