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Statement

by

**H.E. Mr. Ali Reza Moaiyeri
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Before:

**the Seventh Session of the
Human Rights Council**

**on agenda item 7:
Human Rights Situation in Palestine and the Other
Arab Occupied Territories**

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Mr. President,

I would like to associate myself with the statements made by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC and by Cuba on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. President,

The international community, during recent days has been witnessing, once again, the renewed wave of horrendous attacks and cruel aggressions and incursions by the Zionist regime against the innocent civilians of Palestine, including defenseless women and children in Gaza, as a result of which just over the past few days more than 120 people have been killed and a lot have been injured.

Unfortunately, the Israeli regime continues its atrocities in the Gaza strip with the unconditional support of its mentor who pretends to be seeking a peace deal while the international community does nothing to prevent them. Reports from Gaza indicate that only on Saturday 1 March 2008, the overall death toll was 58 being the highest in a single day since the current round of violence erupted in September 2000. The Israeli brutal invasions have pushed the Palestinian death toll to more than 120 since Wednesday 27th of February 2008.

Although, such military attacks are not unprecedented and those actions have become a common practice for the Israeli regime all over the occupied Palestinian territories during the past decades, nevertheless, resorting to such excessive and disproportionate use of force in Gaza is shocking, inhumane and horrible. Undoubtedly, those violent and cruel actions constitute severe breach of International human and humanitarian laws, are against the provisions of the Fourth Geneva convention and flagrantly are among the crimes against humanity.

The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns the recent military attacks, massacres and incursions in Gaza by the Israeli regime and wishes to express its heart-felt sympathy with the families who lost their beloved ones in the recent indiscriminate bombardment of residential areas in the Gaza strip.

Mr. President,

There is much to be regretted that despite all the decisions and resolutions of this august body, particularly the recent resolution of the Sixth Special Session of the Human Rights Council which was held less than two months ago to address human rights violations emanating from Israeli military incursions, the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territories remains grave and worsening, within a general climate of impunity and the said regime has continued to perpetuate massive and systematic violation of human rights against the innocent people of Palestine in defiance of the Council's decisions and resolutions.

Mr. President,

The inhuman policy of the Israeli regime to siege of Gaza strip less than two months ago and blocking basic needs such as food, fuel, electricity and medicine has

led humanitarian situation of the area to a complete tragedy and according to reports the Gaza's humanitarian situation is at its worst since the Zionists occupied the territory in 1967.

Mr. President,

The Council is in dire need of concrete actions and not mere words. We call upon urge the international community and particularly this august body to take all necessary measures to put an immediate end to the continuation of Israeli regime atrocities against innocent people of Palestine in the Gaza strip and the other occupied territories.

Thank you,