

EGYPT

ITEM 7

Mr. President,

I would like at the outset to welcome Mr. Richard Falk and to express our delight at seeing him assuming his mandate. We are confident in his capacity and look forward to cooperating with him.

Once again, this Council resumes to discuss the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. We do not know how many more times we will have to do this before Israel could realize the inadmissibility of the acquisition of land by the use of force. We do not know how many Palestinian martyrs will have to die before Israel realizes that occupation, no matter how long it lasts, will never be legitimate and no force can turn injustice into justice.

The Palestinian cause is a cause of legitimacy versus violation of law. It is the cause of the supremacy of rights versus the arrogance of power.

The daily suffering of the Palestinian People under occupation is, or should be, a reason for embarrassment, if not a shame and disgrace for the entire international community.

We are being lectured day and night about the Rule of Law and its necessity for the promotion of all societies. We have no doubt about the imperativeness of the Rule of Law within states. But we have every right to wonder about the Rule of Law among states.

Where is the Rule of Law while the international community is motionless while the Palestinian Cause is being turned from a cause of legitimacy and rights into a humanitarian issue that could be addressed by merely intensifying assistance and relief efforts?

It is true that The Palestinian cause has witnessed more human suffering and atrocities than any other cause throughout the human history. But it is first and foremost a legal cause. It is a cause of peoples who have legal evidence and proofs that will be unquestionably accepted before any equitable court.

The International Court of Justice has expressed itself clearly about the illegitimacy of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories. In its historical Advisory Opinion, the Court ruled that Israel should cease and abolish all construction in that wall of racial discrimination it is building on the lands of the Palestinians.

Mr. President,

The Middle East does not need walls to divide its peoples, it rather needs bridges to bond them together. There is a big difference between those who build walls while claiming to be bridge builders and others who are sincerely willing to build bridges even though the walls are there.

Israel's continuation of the construction of that wall of racial discrimination as well as of settlements on the Palestinian occupied land is another testimony of the little value it attaches to the authority of the international law.

Everybody knows so well what Israel is doing in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Let's take a look at what the UN is doing. It continues adopting more and more resolutions affirming and reaffirming the inalienable Palestinian rights, while Israel continues rejecting and ridiculing every single one of those resolutions and the organization that adopted them.

While this Council issues more and more resolutions, Israel continues its inhuman practices against the People of

Palestine. It still imprisons more than 11,000 Palestinians, it is intensifying the construction of settlements and pursues its usual policies of closure and starvation against the Palestinian People. It is no wonder that Israel does not listen to the voice of the international community. It always finds in this Council those who support it and even vote against the condemnation of its policies.

Mr. President,

We can not address the Israeli practices without making reference to the conditions of the Syrian prisoners in the Israeli jails, many of them have been imprisoned for more than two decades without being provided with the least requirements for human life and dignity nor medical treatment. There are many cases of those who died or about to die due to the deliberate denial of their right to medical treatment. This is another testimony of the little value Israel attaches to the authority of the International Humanitarian Law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Mr. President,

We understand that the Council will not adopt any resolutions on this item during this session. Nevertheless, we hope that our debate would send a strong message to the incarcerated People of Palestine that the international community did not completely forget their cause and that justice and right will prevail at the end.

I thank you.