



BANGLADESH

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Statement by
H. E. Dr. Toufiq Ali
Ambassador of Bangladesh
at the Special Session of the Human Rights Council
on the situation in Lebanon
Geneva, 11 August 2006

Mr. President,

My delegation associates itself with the statement of the OIC, delivered by the Ambassador of Pakistan.

We are appalled and outraged at the Israeli atrocities in Lebanon. A thousand Lebanese civilians, many of them children, women and elderly have been killed by Israeli attacks. Thousands more are injured or maimed, and millions displaced or marooned. Their homes and properties are destroyed or demolished.

The situation is very grave and it is deteriorating every day with more deaths, more destruction. This brutal and disproportionate use of force is a flagrant violation of human rights and international humanitarian laws. It must stop immediately. It is difficult to believe that in this 21st century, when mankind has progressed so much, that we can allow such atrocities to be perpetrated.

The international community, including the UN Secretary General, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Special Rapporteurs, the Chairman of the Sub-Commission all have expressed their grave concern. The massacre in Qa'na has shocked the world conscience. Despite all this, Israel is continuing its carnage, in defiance of international humanitarian law and outcry. The killing of four UN Peace keepers in Lebanon establishes how little respect Israel has for international norms and civility.

We fully share the High Commissioner's view that indiscriminate shelling of cities constitutes a foreseeable and unacceptable targeting of civilians. Bombardment resulting invariably in the killing of innocent civilians is unjustifiable. International humanitarian laws are clear on the supreme obligation to protect civilians during hostilities. International law also demands accountability. We must also consider the possibility of prosecution of those involved, particularly in positions of command and control, for personal criminal liability.

Mr. President,

As the Israeli atrocities continue in Lebanon, the world is faced with a grave humanitarian crisis. The situation is alarming. The victims are in desperate need of food, shelter and medical assistance. Aid workers find it extremely difficult to reach them under relentless Israeli bombardment. Israel must ensure unrestricted and secure passage of all humanitarian assistance.

We commend all who are working to stop the killing of innocent civilians. We want the United Nations Security Council to act quickly and effectively to bring about an immediate ceasefire, and guarantee the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon. Deployment of international forces along the Israeli-Lebanese border could be a good step forward, but must be done before it is too late. The Lebanese Government's proposal to deploy 15,000 army personnel in South Lebanon to stabilize the area is also welcome. We demand immediate and complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Lebanese territories.

Mr. President,

It is imperative for this Council to take a clear and unequivocal stand on the flagrant defiance of international law, and the violation of fundamental human rights, by Israel. The adoption of the resolution on the table will be a first step in this direction.

We fully support the resolution, and we hope it will be adopted with broadest consensus.

I thank you, Mr. President.