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**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA AT THE 2ND SPECIAL
SESSION OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
(11 August, 2006)**

Mr. President,

The gross and systematic human rights violations perpetrated by Israel in Lebanon are a source of deep concern and outrage.

Since the Israeli invasion, already thousands of civilian men, women, children and old people were massacred or injured, a million population displaced and extensive network of infrastructure and other civilian facilities severely damaged as a result of brutal and barbarous war.

This invasion and consequent killings of innocent civilians by all means constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity as they are in flagrant breach of the principles of the UN Charter, international law and international humanitarian law.

If this situation of atrocities is to continue without frustration, it may result in more human casualties of hundreds of thousands or even millions, further devastation of Lebanon and by far the danger of pushing the whole Middle East to the brink of a new war. This is why in many parts of the world including Arab countries strong voices are being pronounced in denunciation of indiscriminate Israeli air strikes and civilian killings and in demand for immediate cease-fire.

Unfortunately however, Israel continues to escalate military actions into several other places of Lebanon and increase their offensive power on the pretext of "self-defense". The "self-defense" could not in any way justify such crimes against humanity as massive civilian killings and further more, the occupying power is not entitled to it.

Israel's continued acts of human rights violations in defiance of the repeated legitimate call of the international community are in large part

attributable to the patronage, protection and moral and material support of certain big countries that have raised Israel as their subordinate ally over the last several decades. This is like “adding fuel to the fire”.

These supporting countries are all self-announced “human rights judges”.

They are talking about scrutinizing all human rights problems, big or small, but have ignored bloody crisis in Lebanon. No other human rights problems will be as serious as this crisis in Lebanon where large crowd of civilians are killed daily. Other than this, what are the real human rights problems in the eyes of these countries ?

While talking about uncompromising position towards whoever commits human rights violations, they are covering up for Israel instead of criticizing it. Does this mean that no country is to blame for its record of series of human rights violations if that country is simply an ally ?

Mr. President,

The Middle East problem can be resolved only through internationally recognized principle of “Land for Peace” and not through the so-called “spread of freedom and democracy” as advocated by some. Apart from this principle of “Land for Peace”, any solution will only remain empty talks.

In conclusion, Mr. President, if the current bloody crisis in Lebanon is to be addressed in an objective and impartial manner, reckless military actions and civilian killings by Israel should be ceased and all occupying forces be withdrawn and, at the same time, an end must be put to all forms of patronage and protection for Israel. Thank you.