



**Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic
of Korea to the United Nations Office and Other
International Organizations in Geneva**

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**STATEMENT
BY
THE DELEGATION OF
THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA
AT THE 3RD SPECIAL SESSION OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

Mr. President,

My delegation is seriously concerned at the gross human rights violations committed by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and strongly condemns it.

Recently, indiscriminate Israeli artillery shelling in northern Gaza Strip and Beit Hanoun has killed 19 civilians including women and children and wounded more than 60, destructed a number of civilian facilities and created harsh humanitarian crisis.

This is only a part of many bloody catastrophes carried out by Israeli military occupation forces. Since the end of June this year, in Gaza Strip alone 450 civilians have been killed following the arrest and detention of several parliamentarians and cabinet members of Palestine.

As in the past, Israel has also been trying to justify this atrocity on the pretext of "self-defense".

However, the aggressor is not entitled to "self-defense".

Moreover, genocidal killings undertaken by state military forces against defenseless civilians posing no threat to the security can not be justified under any circumstances. These acts, without exception, constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity in flagrant breach of the UN Charter and international humanitarian and human rights laws and should be brought to justice.

The question of Occupied Palestinian Territories has remained as an important agenda item in the major UN bodies and was dealt with as a subject matter in the UN Human Rights Council at its first ever Special Session in July.

However, Israel which is an offender is behaving more and more arrogantly in defiance of repeated warnings of the international community.

This is largely attributable to the protection and material support given by the United States and its western allies.

These countries of self-claimed “human rights judges” are now competing themselves in presenting politically motivated resolutions on individual countries they dislike during the current UN General Assembly, in ignorance of the reality of many Palestinian civilians now being killed by Israel.

While insisting that all violations big or small be punished by all means, why are these countries indifferent to mass killing of civilians? Are there any other violations more serious than this ?

These countries always boast that they resolutely respond to any violations wherever, whenever and by whomever they are committed. Why then are they turning blind eyes to the killings of Palestinian civilians and continuing to protect Israeli offenders ?

If these countries are truly interested in genuine protection of human rights and adopt objective and impartial approach without any ulterior motive, would they not be willing to join co-sponsors of the draft resolution condemning Israeli violations ?

Mr. President,

My delegation believes the lasting peace is a key to a fair solution of the Middle East problem including the problem of Palestine.

We support the position of the countries in the Middle East that they themselves should play the role of the masters in resolving regional problems in an impartial manner through dialogue and cooperation in accordance with UN Charter and principles of international law as well as a series of UNGA resolutions.

The DPRK will continue to support the just cause of Palestinian people to achieve their right to self-determination and the right to life as well as the effort of countries in the Middle East for peace in the region.

Thank you.