

Statement of The Arab Republic of Egypt

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**Human Rights Council Third Special Session
15 November 2006**

Mr. President,

The Delegation of Egypt supports the statements of the African, Arab and Islamic and Non-Aligned Groups and strongly condemns the Israeli incursion in Gaza, the massacre in Beit Hanoun and the continued aggression against the Palestinian People, as well as the gross violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law perpetrated by the occupying Israeli forces, violations that are punishable under International Law.

The occupying forces have committed all types of violations ranging from the widespread targeting and killing of civilians to the deliberate destruction of houses, civilian infrastructure and urban life in the occupied Palestinian Territory in what constitutes a collective punishment of the Palestinian People. The killing of innocent women and children as they sleep at night in Beit Hanoun constitutes a gross violation of human rights and a war crime that necessitates providing the Palestinian People with immediate international protection and for those responsible to account for their actions in conformity with International Law.

It is our view, that those violations constitute part of a deliberate policy of the Israeli Government to utilize its vast military capabilities, in an exaggerated manner that is disproportionate to any alleged security needs, in order to politically oppress the Palestinian People and subjugate them to Israeli will. It cannot be denied that such a policy has had widespread ramifications upon the deteriorating human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, which necessitates that the International Community bear its responsibilities to intervene and protect the Palestinian People.

Mr. President,

The fact that the Council has held three successive Special Sessions during the past five months to look into the violations of a single country- Israel- is in and of itself a matter that highlights the inadequacies and shortcomings of the mechanisms that this Council has in place in order to protect Human Rights and thus gives a dangerous indication as to the lack of credibility of the Council and the future credibility of the international multilateral system as a whole.

The Council has failed to fulfill its obligations towards the protection of the human rights of the Palestinian People and to implement decisions reached in that context. Perhaps the main reason for this is the repeated failure of the international community and the Council to deliver a strong and unified message to Israel to bring to a stop its ongoing and continued violations due to the insistence of a few members of this Council to politicize those matters and to include issues that have no bearing upon Human Rights in the discussions by advocating the necessity to create a balance between victim and perpetrator and between an occupied people and an occupying states, and between a modern military establishment fully equipped with the latest and most destructive military hardware, and the ^{Limited} actions of a few isolated groupings of individuals, that do not necessarily represent the majority of the Palestinian people, though exercising their inherent right of resisting occupation. ~~with limited consequences~~. Such positions taken by some Council members have only served to encourage Israel to blatantly ignore all International Norms and Law and has weakened the efforts of this Council to fulfill its obligations and its mandate, indeed its raison-d'être of protecting human rights.

Mr. President,

The current situation necessitates that the Human Rights Council rise to its obligations and delivers a strong message to Israel to protect the rights of the Palestinian people through adopting the proposed draft resolution presented before this session by consensus and to also insure the creation of a high level fact finding mission to conclude its work at the earliest possible time.

Thank you Mr. President.

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