

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Statement By

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Permanent Representative

November 15, 2006

Mr. President,

My permanent Representative is out of Geneva and I have the honor to read this statement on his behalf.

I would like to associate myself with the statements delivered by the distinguished Ambassadors of Bahrain, Pakistan, and Cuba on behalf of the Arab Group, the OIC and NAM, respectively.

The large-scale Israeli military operation in Gaza and the indiscriminate targeting and killing of civilians in Beit Hanoun is by no means justifiable. Indeed, military strikes that destroy vital infrastructure and intimidate the civilian population constitute a form of collective punishment. They are, thus, in contravention of the Fourth Geneva Convention, the provisions of which are continually being violated by Israel.

As an occupying power, Israel is obliged to ensure the safety and well-being of Palestinian civilians. In our view, it is a political malfunction, not a technical one that has led to the bloodbath in Beit Hanoun and the rest of Gaza lately. The lessons of the recent past should have been absorbed; namely that military power will not solve Israel's security problem. Regrettably recent and consistent Israeli military practice seems to constitute deliberate measures aiming at offsetting and anticipating any meaningful

political re-engagement. The consistency of those unlawful Israeli practices and measures is unfortunately intensifying the atmosphere of tension and suspicion. It is also compelling many to agree with the argument often advanced which stipulates that such loss of innocent Palestinian lives is the product of deliberate intentions rather than technical errors. We still sincerely hope that this is not the case.

Jordan strongly condemns the hideous massacre of Palestinian civilians while peacefully asleep inside their homes in Beit Hanoun. Palestinian civilians, mostly children, old women and men have become the main casualties in this interminable struggle. We, therefore, call upon the international community to exert more efforts to provide an immediate protection to Palestinian civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Finally, Mr. President, I would like to reiterate that these acts constitute not only a grave violation of the principles and norms of the international humanitarian and human rights law but also create an environment for the flourishing of hatred, revenge, and extremism. And indeed can not be conducive for the creation of the necessary conditions to imminently resume the political process and negotiation.

Thank You ,