



CHAIR OF
THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

SPECIAL SESSION ON THE GROSS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS
EMANATING FROM ISRAELI MILITARY INCURSIONS IN THE OCCUPIED
PALESTINIAN TERRITORY, INCLUDING THE RECENT ONE IN NORTHERN
GAZA AND THE ASSAULT ON BEIT HANOUN

STATEMENT OF H.E. MR. JUAN ANTONIO FERNANDEZ, AMBASSADOR,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA, ON BEHALF
OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT

(Check against delivery)

Geneva, 15 November 2006

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

The Non-Aligned Movement has historically maintained a clear and unequivocal principled position concerning the recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, the rejection of the illegal occupation of Arab territories by Israel, and the condemnation of mass, flagrant and systematic violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed by the occupying power.

Resounding pronouncements on the question of Palestine have emerged during the most important meetings of the Movement, convened at the highest level.

In this context, the Heads of State or Government of the Member States adopted a Statement on Palestine during the XIV Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Havana last September, in which they reaffirmed their strong commitment to continue supporting the Palestinian people to bring an end to Israel's occupation, and consistently ratified their commitment to a just and peaceful solution of the conflict and to the right of the Palestinian people to exercise self-determination and sovereignty in their independent state of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

At the same time, the Heads of State and/or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement, gathered in Havana, expressed their strong condemnation of the relentless and intensifying Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people, through which the occupying power has continued to perpetrate grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law involving the excessive and indiscriminate use of force, the constant practice of extrajudicial executions and the imposition of collective punishment.

Most recently the Coordinating Bureau of the NAM in New York, in the light of recent events in Beit Hanoun, requested an emergency meeting of the Security Council in which a Declaration on behalf of all Member States of the Movement was delivered. The text of this Declaration is attached to the present statement.

Mr. President,

The Israeli escalation against the Palestinian people continues to intensify. More than 280 Palestinians have been killed since 25 June 2006, including more than 60 children. The Israeli shelling of a residential area in the Gaza Strip last 8 November, which killed 19 innocent Palestinian civilians, including women and children, has caused consternation around the world.

The massacre in Beit Hanoun is another example of the terrible suffering of the Palestinian people as a result of the illegal occupation of their territory by Israel.

The Non-Aligned Movement reiterates its deep concern about the continuing deterioration of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, especially as a result of the excessive, indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force by Israel, the occupying power.

The Movement strongly condemns the Israeli military assaults in the Gaza Strip, which has resulted in the loss of lives and the destruction of Palestinian property and vital infrastructure.

The Non-Aligned Movement calls for the immediate cessation of Israel's military incursions into the Palestinian territory and demands respect for the Geneva Conventions and the human rights of the Palestinian people.

Thank you very much.

STATEMENT ON THE DETERIORATION OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, ESPECIALLY THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY (agreed by the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement in New York, and delivered on behalf of all Member States of the Movement, in the emergency meeting of the Security Council, 9 November 2006).

“The Coordinating Bureau of the Non- Aligned Movement expresses once again its grave concern at the continued deterioration of the situation on the ground in the occupied Palestinian territory, during the recent period, particularly as a result of the excessive, indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force by Israel, the occupying Power, which has caused extensive loss of civilian Palestinian life and injuries, including among children and women.

“The Movement condemns in particular the military assaults being carried out by Israel, the occupying Power in the Gaza Strip, which has caused loss of life and extensive destruction of Palestinian property and vital infrastructure. The Movement reaffirms the continued validity of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 446 (1979), 1322 (2000), 1397 (2002), 1402 (2002), 1403 (2002), 1435 (2002), 1515 (2003) and 1553 (2004).

“The Movement emphasizes the need to preserve the institutions of the Palestinian National Authority and Palestinian infrastructure and properties.

“The Movement expresses grave concern at the dire humanitarian situation of the Palestinian people and calls for the provision of emergency assistance to them.

“In light of the present situation, the Movement urges the Security Council to shoulder its responsibility according to the United Nations Charter in the preservation of international peace and security by taking the following measures:

“1. Demanding that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately cease its aggression against the Palestinian civilian population in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and immediately withdraw its forces from within the Gaza Strip to positions prior to June 2006;

"2. Calling for an immediately ceasefire between the Israeli and Palestinian sides;

"3. Calling also for the establishment and dispatch of a United Nations observer force to supervise the ceasefire;

"4. Calling upon Israel, the occupying Power, to scrupulously abide by its obligations and responsibilities under the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949.

"In that regard, the Movement calls upon the international community, including the Quartet, to take immediate steps, including confidence-building measures between the parties, with the objective of resuming peace negotiations and restarting the peace process.

"The Movement will remain seized of this important issue."