

**Permanent Observer
Mission of Palestine
to the United Nations
Geneva**



البعثة المراقبة الدائمة
لفلسطين
لدى الأمم المتحدة في جنيف

Palestine Statement

by

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before

**The Third Special Session on Palestine
Human Rights Council**

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This is the third special session of this new Council and the culprit is the same, Israel, which has no regard for UN resolutions despite the fact that it was the UN which gave its creation legitimacy. November is not exactly the best month for the Palestinian people; it marks, among other things, the infamous Balfour Declaration of 2nd November 1917, the partition of their country through UNGA resolution 181 of 29 November 1947, the demise of President Arafat on 11 November 2004, and the recent the Israeli incursion in Northern Gaza, one day before the sad anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, and the massacre of Beit Hanoun on 8th instant.

Beit Hanoun seems today as if it were hit by a strong earthquake, just like the refugee camp of Jenin following the Israeli massacre and destruction there. Once again the Israeli army unleashed its lethal power against defenceless Palestinian civilians in Beit Hanoun; shelling their homes while asleep and targeting and shelling again those civilians fleeing the earlier bombardments. The perpetrators of this horrendous war crime should be brought to international justice. This crime is on top of the week long spate of Israeli destruction and killing in this bereaved town. The sight of torn bodies including those of children amid a pool of blood should prompt swift action by this Council in order to stop the series of Israeli atrocities committed against Palestinian civilians, and to shoulder its responsibility by pressing for international protection of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

We live in an era in which double standards and manipulation of international law have been elevated to the rank of virtue. We are not bemused by the so-called right of Israel to defend itself while depicting Palestinian resistance as terrorism. We are not invading Israel. It is Israel which has been utilising for decades various custom-made flimsy pretexts to prolong its notorious occupation of our land and thereby deny our people their national rights including their right to live free of the yoke of occupation.

Tyranny and suppression in America, when it was a colony, gave birth to the American Revolution in 1775. The Palestinian people are the victims of a prolonged tyranny and suppression. For defenders of human rights and self determination, Washington is not a name of a town where the gods of power dwell and send their wrathful angel to the Security Council to bless the aggressor and curse the victim;

Washington is the name of the great leader of the American Revolution who was called a terrorist for resisting the occupation of his country.

“Tyranny, like Hell, is not easily conquered. Yet we have this consolation with us, the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph”. These are the words of one of the leaders of the American Revolution, Mr. Thomas Paine.

Finally, I would like to quote from *Auguries of Innocence*, a poem by William Blake:

Some are Born to sweet delight

Some are Born to Endless Night

We seek your help in ending our endless nights.