

**Explanation of Vote by the Republic of Korea  
in the Second Special Session of the Human Rights Council**

Aug. 11 2006

Mr. President,

It deeply troubles us to see the rapidly deteriorating human rights situation in the Middle East which has called this body to hold a second special session within the first two months of the establishment of the Human Rights Council.

Looking at the current tragic situation in Southern Lebanon and Northern Israel, we are extremely concerned about the heavy casualties of innocent civilians, especially children, women and elderly, as well as the plight of a huge number of ~~internally~~ displaced persons and the destruction of essential civilian infrastructures.

We are fully sympathetic to the suffering of the civilians living in this area that has known far too many wars and we would like to add our voice to the urgent call for protection of their human rights.

My delegation therefore strongly urges that all parties to this conflict will respect international human rights and humanitarian law as well as the laws of war and will refrain from violence against the innocent civilian population ~~and provide unhindered humanitarian assistance to them.~~

This is ~~not~~ <sup>certainly</sup> a case for a resolution.

However, in our view, this situation is primarily a matter of international peace and security. Although it entails the questions of human rights and humanitarian affairs, it is better to approach this crisis in the light of peace and security in the first place. In this regard, we note that the Security Council is already seized of this matter.

We hope that the Security Council will expeditiously take a decisive action to bring about an immediate cessation of hostilities and prompt and durable settlement of the conflict.

Secondly, we are not fully convinced that the resolution in this body will

substantially contribute to the halt of violations of human rights <sup>in the Middle East</sup> and ~~solution of the problem.~~

<sup>covers situation in only one part of the conflict and</sup>  
Lastly, this resolution <sup>fails to address all the aspects involved in the</sup>  
situation.

For these reasons, ~~we have abstained~~  
<sup>my delegation will</sup>