

Right of reply by the Islamic Republic of Iran

Today, the Committee heard an irrelevant reference to my country, made by the representative of the Israeli regime, which indeed contained a number of fabricated and baseless claims. In response to that irrelevant reference, I would like to state the following:

The Islamic Republic of Iran condemns genocide against any race, ethnic or religious group as a crime against humanity. Many abhorrent cases of genocide that have regrettably occurred throughout history and inflicted immense and extensive pain and harm to the various ethnic groups and peoples that necessitate a thorough and comprehensive examination in order to avoid repetition of such practices in the future.

Therefore, addressing historical events of horrific enormity, with a view to avoiding their recurrence, requires a commensurate degree of scientific scrutiny and rigor. Rendering political judgments on such events and closing the door to any scientific inquiry on their characteristics, scope and extent would seriously undermine the sincerity of the endeavor, particularly in its preventive aspect which should aim at precluding the reoccurrence of similar atrocities. The basic principles of democracy, including the right to freedom of expression and belief, should pave the way for exploring different aspects of historical events without any arbitrary restrictions.

Moreover, genocide and the immense sufferings associated with that horrific crime should not be manipulated for political purposes. Regrettably, the Israeli regime has routinely attempted to exploit the sufferings of the Jewish people in the past as a cover for its crimes being perpetrated today against Palestinians in the occupied territories, including massacre, demolition of houses, properties and farmlands, as well as acts of state terrorism. The international community should take strong action against such atrocious crimes of this regime and not allow it to manipulate humanitarian sentiments to pursue its illegitimate goals.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has never made any threats against any other country-let alone desire to annihilation of any State. In fact, Iran has been on the receiving side of threats from the regime of Israel over the past few years.

The threats directed against Iran by the Israeli officials are pure manifestation of the irrational and illegal behavior and policy of the Israeli regime whose records are a showcase of aggression, suppression, assassination and terrorism. As stated by Iranian authorities on different occasions Iran has not attacked any country in the past 250 years, nor intends to do it in the future.

We believe that a regime, such as the regime of Israel, who clandestinely went nuclear and now possesses nuclear weapons, and has threatened and attacked its neighbors lacks legitimacy to question the legal activities of other countries that seek nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. We also are of the view that the DPI should not neglect to provide the international community with information on the illegal activities and practices exercised of the Israeli regime in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman