

**Statement by Tehmina Janjua, APR, Pakistan, on the  
Report on the High Level Fact Finding Mission established  
under the Human Rights Council Resolution S-3/1  
(22 March 2007)**

Mr. President,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the OIC.

We would like to thank Archbishop Desmond Tutu and other members of the High Level Fact Finding Mission for their sincere and concerted efforts to visit the Palestinian Occupied Territories, especially Beit Hanoun in fulfillment of the mandate given to them by the Human Rights Council at its third Special Session. It is deeply regrettable that the High Level Fact Finding Mission was unable to visit Beit Hanoun.

The Council adopted its resolution S-3/1 in a Special Session held following the shock and horror of Israeli killing of Palestinian civilians in Beit Hanoun. Most of these civilians were killed while others fleeing the indiscriminate bombardment. The Council denounced the massive destruction of Palestinians homes, property and infrastructure in Beit Hanoun. The High Level Fact Finding Mission was mandated to assess the situation of the victims, address the need of survivors and make recommendations on ways and means to protect Palestinian civilians against further assaults.

Regrettably, the High Level Fact Finding Mission was prevented from investigating the implications of the military action that took place in November in the course of "Operation Autumn Clouds".

We thank the Special Rapporteur John Dugard for having reported on Beit Hanoun in his recent report to the Council. Mr. Dugard has reported the following:

- During the six day incursion, 82 Palestinians, at least half of whom were civilians were killed. More than 260 people, including 60 children were injured and hundreds of males between the ages of 16 and 40 were arrested.
- Forty thousand residents were confined to their homes as a result of curfew while homes, public buildings, electricity networks, schools and hospitals were destroyed and orchards, roads, water mains and sewerage networks were dug up.
- There was evidence of the use of a new and unusual weapon in Beit Hanoun, which has resulted in an increase in amputations.
- In one particular instance, nineteen innocent civilians were killed and 55 wounded when a house was attacked.

- The justification for the attack on Beit Hanoun has been stated as a defensive operation. However, even if that was so the Special Rapporteur has stated that Israeli response was grossly disproportionate and indiscriminate and resulted in the commission of multiple war crimes.

The Council must heed the words of the Special Rapporteur that the persons responsible for the attack that led to the killing of 19 persons should be held criminally responsible.

The OIC continues to urge the Council that the Beit Hanoun situation should be investigated, compensation paid to the all victims and the perpetrators be prosecuted.

I thank you Mr. President.