

STATEMENT BY ZAMBIA

I thank you Mr ~~Chair~~ ^{President}

My delegation thanks Professor John Dugard, ^{Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the} for his report. ^{Palestine since 1967}
We regret the fact that it was not possible for Professor Dugard to visit the area. Had that not ~~stop~~ ^{stop} him from writing a credible report which we have duly noted.

Mr President

We hold the view that all Member States of the U.N. should, at all times, facilitate visits by U.N. related fact-finding missions. However it is very clear that Fact Finding Missions ~~are~~ are composed of men and women of high integrity with sound judgement and on that basis we have no difficulties in accepting the report by Prof. Dugard.

Mr President

The Israeli/Palestinian conflict has been with us for too long a time now. My delegation calls upon Israel to take the necessary steps to help bring an end to this conflict. ~~Two~~ ^{Two} factors are ~~the~~ indispensable to ensure that peace, ~~lasting~~ ^{lasting} durable peace, comes to that unhappy region.

- 1st Mutual recognition ^{and acceptance of} of a two State solution
- 2nd Round table negotiations, helped by the international community, leading to the implementation of all the ^{U.N.} Resolutions.

There is need for both Israelis and Palestinians to talk to each other and not on each other, to talk to each other and not on each other, to rise from disarray to a unifying goal.

The big Powers, namely the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and all those who believe in human rights have a responsibility to help ~~the~~ Israelis and Palestinians who are broken and utterly dependent on the

Report on Human Rights Council Resolution S-1/1 by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Prof. John Dugard

22 March 2007

On 6 July 2006 the Human Rights Council resolved to send a fact-finding mission headed by the Special Rapporteur on the Palestinian territories to investigate the situation in Gaza following the commencement of "Operation Summer Rains" by the Israel Defense Forces.

The President of the Human Rights Council requested the consent of the Government of Israel for this mission as required by General Assembly resolution 48/59. Preparations were made for this fact-finding mission but as the Government of Israel failed to give its consent to the mission I was unable to carry out the mission.

I visited the Occupied Palestinian Territory in December 2006 in my capacity as Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories. On this occasion I made it clear to the Israeli authorities that I was not visiting the region in pursuance of resolution S-1/1 of 6 July 2006 but as Special Rapporteur. The Government of Israel accepted this assurance and facilitated my visit to the OPT despite the fact that it declined to speak to me about the situation in the OPT. I greatly appreciate the assistance given to me in this way by the Government of Israel.

*Patnach, Abraham, Father of Isaac and Jacob,
to come together and live in peace with people.*