



## BANGLADESH

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Statement by

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Acting Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN  
at the Special meeting of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the  
Palestinian People  
**to mark forty years of occupation by Israel of the Palestinian Territory,  
including East Jerusalem**

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New York, 07 June 2007

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Mr. Chairman,

Today we commemorate with a pal of gloom the 40 years of Israeli occupation of East Jerusalem, a most unfortunate event. It is a painful and glaring reminder of the failure of the international community to resolve the issue even after 40 years of its inception.

The occupation of East Jerusalem by Israel lies, as much as the issue of Palestine, at the heart of the Middle-East crisis. This is the root cause of the spiraling of violence and hostilities in the Middle East whose shockwaves are being felt around the globe.

Mr. Chairman,

Jerusalem is the holy place and confluence of all three monotheistic faiths--Islam, Christianity and Judaism. The holy city of Al-Quds Al-Shareef and the Al-Aqsa Mosque hold special religious sensitivity for the Muslims. It is unfortunate that Israel, in brazen violation of the standing UN resolutions aimed at preserving the sanctity of the holy city of Jerusalem-Al-Quds Al-Shareef, are unabatedly carrying out its illegal activities with impunity, in the utter disrespect for the religious sentiment of the Muslims all around the world.

The recent demolition, by Israeli occupation forces, of a historic road connecting Bab Al-Maghariba with the Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound and carrying out of excavation works below the Holy Al-Aqsa Compound, undermining its foundations and threatening it with collapse, is a dismal commentary of the situation on the ground. We roundly condemn these sacrilegious activities and urge for determined UN intervention on this issue. We also want to remind that such outrageous undertakings will cast a serious doubt on Israel's sincerity to resume the peace process making peace in the region an increasingly elusive reality.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is dismayed at the worsening humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territories. We are also deeply concerned about the recent breaking of the ceasefire and the renewed escalation of violence. We call upon Israel to exercise maximum restraint and bring all its grisly policies and practices to a total halt and withdraw the humanitarian and economic blockade imposed on the Palestinians. We also call upon Israel to immediately stop the construction of the separation wall and dismantle its already erected parts, halt and reverse the continued expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, release the Palestinian prisoners and resume the transfer of tax revenues that has been withheld since 2006.

We reiterate our full support to the cause and legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to a sovereign and independent State, with East Jerusalem as its capital, existing alongside Israel in peace and security. We maintain that for just and sustainable peace to take root, Israel, the occupying power, must withdraw its forces from all the occupied territories including East Jerusalem and meet all its obligations under the Geneva Convention, relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions and other peace initiatives including the Road Map drawn up by the Quartet.

We urge upon the warring parties to return to talks to negotiate a breakthrough in the current impasse in the peace process. It is also high time for ~~the~~ us, the Member States of the United Nations, to fulfill our part of the collective obligation. We have to re-engage vigorously and with all sincerity in the peace process to reach a just and sustainable solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict so that the confidence of the peace-loving peoples, both Palestinians and Israelis, placed on the UN system is vindicated.

Mr. Chairman,

On this sad occasion, we remember and mourn the many lives lost in the conflict. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families affected. Despite all odds, we hope to see an end to the sufferings of the Palestinians who had been languishing under the Israeli occupation for generations.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.