

Statement by Mr. Mojtaba AMIRI VAHID Deputy Permanent Observer Mission of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to the UN-Geneva, during the 12th Special Session of the Human Rights Council on "Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories including East Jerusalem", Geneva, 15 Oct. 2009

Mr. President,

While associating myself with the statement made earlier by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC Group, I have the honor to make the following on behalf of the OIC General Secretariat.

The OIC General Secretariat fully supports the Palestinian call for commencing the Special Session of the Council for considering the Goldston report and its effective implementation of recommendations contained in the report which were also supported by the international community.

As Dr. Goldston rightly stated in his well documented report and oral presentation before the Council which was appointed by the Fact Finding Mission; that the Human Rights Council has raised expectations for action and for justice. The OIC along with the scour of speakers during the course of this Special Session calls on all concerned parties including the Human Rights Council to take up recommendations contained in the Goldston report so those expectations will not have be raised in vain.

Mr. President,

I seize this opportunity to call the attention of the Council to the most recent atrocities of the Occupying power in the Palestinian Occupied Territories. As rightly stated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Human rights situations in the Occupied Territories remain a source of grave concern. Although many of these violations have been documented in the Goldston report and despite the condemnation expressed by the international community, the tragedy of demolishing of Palestinian houses by Israeli forces still continues with no mercy.

Moreover, the imposition of a security cordon on the Mosque and the rising calls launched by Jewish extremist groups to storm Al-Aqsa Mosque in order to hold provocative rituals practices before turning into a full-fledged tragedy with unpredictable consequences, must be strongly denounced and effectably halted by respected bodies of the international communities.

The OIC calls on the need for the urgent intensification of efforts by the international community, including the Quarter and particularly by the Security Council, to address the continuing political and humanitarian crisis and to lend crucial support towards the resumption and early conclusion of a credible, sustained and result-oriented peace process to the satisfaction of the Palestinian people. The Council must ensure the applicability of international human rights law, namely the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian person in time of War, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including east Jerusalem. In that context, the Council should be vigilant about the continuation of the Israeli imposed siege on the Occupied Gaza Strip, including its closure of border crossings and cutting the supply of fuel, foods and medicine, all of which constitutes as a collective punishment of the innocent Palestinian population.

In conclusion, Mr. President, the Council must make concerted efforts to awaken the Occupying power to the undeniable fact that peace only comes to the region when there is an accountability, a sense of responsibility and the realization of applicable international laws and related UN resolutions including the peridical report of the High Commissioner and that of the Independent International Fact Finding Mission.

I thank you, Mr. President.