

Statement by Pakistan during the urgent debate on the situation created by Israeli attacks on the Flotilla of Ships carrying humanitarian aid to Occupied Gaza, during 14th Session of HRC, 1 June 2010

Mr. President,

The Pakistan leadership at the highest level has strongly condemned the assault by Israeli Forces on a Gaza-bound humanitarian aid flotilla, which has resulted in the killing and injury of a number of defenseless members of this humanitarian mission.

This unwarranted and unprovoked military action by Israel against a humanitarian mission constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and norms and values of humanity. Pakistan expects the international community to take cognizance of this brutal act and ensure the safety and security of all persons who were on this humanitarian mission. Three Pakistani citizens were on board this flotilla carrying humanitarian aid collected by the civil society in Pakistan for the besieged people of Gaza. They joined this noble cause only to help the innocent and defenseless people in Gaza, but have been treated with brutality by the Israeli forces, which is in total disregard of all international norms and laws.

We endorse the strong condemnatory statements issued by the OIC and UN Secretary Generals as well as the High Commissioner for Human Rights on this deadly Israeli attack and support their calls for independent, credible and immediate investigations with a view to taking strong legal action against those responsible for this violation of international human rights and humanitarian laws.

Mr. President,

The latest Israeli outrage is the continuation of a familiar pattern of abuses committed by the occupying power Israel with impunity for the last six decades against the Palestinian and Arab people. This is a reign of terror conducted behind the smokescreen of fighting terrorism. This lie can no longer be sustained. The situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories has become intolerable and unacceptable. No country that claims to uphold human rights and international law can even try to justify such crimes against humanity.

The root cause of all violence, insecurity and instability in the region is Israel's illegal and protracted occupation of Palestinian and other Arab territories. If violence and retaliation is to be effectively countered, the international community will need to step up its efforts to end this occupation. Israel should support, not undermine, an amicable solution of the Palestinian issue on the basis of the Security Council resolutions, the Quartet's Road Map and the targets outlined in the outcome of the Annapolis Summit. Its own future depends on such a course.

Mr. President,

We fully support the resolution put forward by the OIC and Arab Groups to address the situation under discussion and hope that the Council will be able to adopt this resolution with consensus.

I thank you, Mr. President.