65th General Assembly

Statement by Syrian Representative

Question of Palestine

Right of Reply

November 30, 2010

SYRIA: Thank you, Mr. President. I hope that these types of technical difficulties will not happen again under your esteemed presidency. I will now continue in Arabic in exercising my right of reply.

Mr. President, allow me at the outset to read some titles of articles published recently in the Israeli press. These articles are a direct response from the Israeli press itself to the erroneous allegations put forward by the Israeli delegation against my country. The first title was published by *El Haaretz* paper on the 24th of November. In the article you can read, and I quote, “The referendum concerning the Golan is one further insult to the international community and significantly changes Israelis’ commitment to respecting resolutions,” end of quote.

The title of the second article, which appeared in the Israeli paper today, states, and I quote, “The Israeli government is attempting to halt the signing of a peace agreement with Syria” ... [?] [00:03:43] and to seek reconciliation with regard to Jerusalem -- with Palestine with regard to Jerusalem.

As to the third article, Mr. President, it was published on the 28th of November 2010 in *El Haaretz* paper two days ago. The article is entitled, and I quote, “We, the Israelis, sons of the chosen people, will decide on the fate of another people living for generations under occupation. This is the Israeli insolence in these bold statements,” end quote. These are comments that were made in the *El Haaretz* paper. And in that article you can also read, and I quote again, “Israeli democracy in its clearest form, all people will decide on the question of a settlement, but not with regard to the settlements, nor the question of annexation or wars or conflicts. Here again, I would insist on the Israeli attempts to lead us -- mislead us. There is an attempt, as well, to defer the settlement date, and I think the Israelis should ask the following question of their government: Where are we headed? Where are you taking us? These settlements are continuing to be built. Occupation has -- is continuing and is becoming further rooted. But what will happen after that?” End quote.

State terrorism on the part of Israel is documented by a number of international institutions. They have a black record full of massacres, crimes and aggressions and occupation, which have been ongoing now for more than 60 years on Arab territories. Such terrorism is something Israel excels at. It carries out the most atrocious crimes against civilians in Palestine, in Golan, in Lebanon, in Jordan and Tunisia and Sudan. We undoubtedly will all remember what happened in Canaan, Jenin [?] [00:06:39] ... in Bahar el Bakka [?], at Delia Sin [?] and elsewhere. Israeli state terrorism has not even spared the representatives of the United Nations, to begin with, the -- Mr. Belmar Dots [?] [00:06:58] and the killing of that individual, including crimes committed against peacekeepers serving in UNIFIL during the first counteraggression and the second in Lebanon, which ultimately led to the destruction of the UNRWA headquarters in Gaza in 2008.

We cannot list here all of the Israeli practices, Mr. President. Perhaps Israel can deceive and lead some to believe its lies, but it cannot do this forever because its policies are now well known and have been condemned by the majority of states in the world.

The word of Israel has become synonymous with words such as aggression, killing, racism, occupation, terrorism, assassinations. The most recent took place in Dubai, as everyone knows. Israel will need a great deal of pardon, of forgiveness from its victims. Israel needs to be more introspective and must be accountable for its terrorist crimes committed for decades by successive governments before the international community officials and civilians stop condemning it. Thank you.