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Permanent Mission of The Arab Republic of Egypt

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The Seventeenth Session of The Human Rights Council

General Debate on Agenda items 1&7:

HC report on Flotilla &

● **The Human Rights Situation in Palestine and other Occupied Arab Territories**

Statement by

Ambassador Hisham Badr

**Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations
and other international organizations in Geneva**

● **on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement**

(Geneva, 14 June 2011)

Please check against delivery



Mr President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Today, the Human Rights Council convenes again to address the situation of human rights in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories, and again we find ourselves in a situation where neither the question of Palestine is resolved after the passage of more than 63 years since the 1948, nor the occupation of the Syrian Golan and the rest of the occupied Lebanese land has ended. We still witness the continuing oppression and suffering of the people of the occupied Arab territories under Israeli occupation. The NAM reaffirms its continued and unequivocal support for, and longstanding solidarity with the those people in their struggle for the full realization of their inalienable rights.

The NAM would like to stress that it would remain at the forefront of support for the historic march of the Palestinian people to realize freedom, peace and justice, in line with the longstanding international consensus recognizing the Palestinian people as a nation and recognizing their right to self-determination on the basis of the borders of June 4, 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital. For forty-four years, the Palestinians, and Syrians in the occupied Syrian Golan, have suffered under the Israeli military occupation of their land and continue to be denied their fundamental human rights. This has been also the case for the Lebanese people in the rest of the occupied Lebanese land.

The Movement condemns in particular Israel's unlawful and aggressive use of military force against the unarmed and defenseless, Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese civilian population, including non-violent peaceful protestors.

The Movement also condemns the settlement colonization campaign in the West Bank, blockade of the Gaza Strip, detention and imprisonment of thousands of Palestinians, and all other measures of collective punishment against the Palestinian people, constituting grave breaches of international humanitarian law and violations of human rights law and the UN resolutions, for which the occupying power must be held accountable. We express here our grave concern about the inhumane conditions under which Palestinian and Syrian political prisoners are being held, including physical and mental ill-treatment. There must be an immediate release of all the Palestinians and Syrians illegally detained and imprisoned by Israel, including children and women.



Mr President,

The international community, including the Human Rights Council, has an obligation to respond effectively, through concrete steps, to stop the harsh policies and practices against the Palestinian people which have led over the years to a grave deterioration in their humanitarian situation. An effective response would give the Palestinians hope for their future, lest they succumb to despair with all its negative ramifications. It should not be acceptable that an occupying power imposes on any people a "fait accompli" for the mere reason that it possesses the tools of subjugation and suppression. To bet on the feasibility of occupation is to bet against the weight of history, because independence and freedom are the natural state of mankind, while oppression and coercion are practices of a bygone era which we have a duty and responsibility to erase from mindsets and uproot from the ground.

The international community must lend also its support to address urgently the situation in occupied Syrian Golan and the remaining occupied Lebanese land. What happened lately on May 15 and June 5, where we witnessed the use of live ammunition by Israeli security forces against Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese unarmed civilians protesting the continuation of occupation from inside the occupied Palestinian territory, along the ceasefire line between the occupied Syrian Golan and the motherland Syria, and in the Lebanese occupied land, lead to the killing and injuring of tens of peaceful protestors, mostly Palestinians, a clear evidence of Israel's way of performing its control on the occupied Arab territories. We also echo here the call by the High Commissioner for Human Rights to hold investigations, which we prefer to be independent and international, into the events of June 5, and as the High Commissioner stated "where is evidence that crimes are committed, prosecution and appropriate punishment must follow".

Mr. President,

The NAM would also like to express its appreciation to the High Commissioner for her report on the status of implementation of the Council's resolution 16/20 concerning the incident of the humanitarian Flotilla. The Movement still believes that the Israeli attack represented an outrageous act and a serious violation of both the international humanitarian and human rights law. The non-response by Israel to the High Commissioner's request for information concerning this incident is yet another example of Israel's total disregard for the international norms.



Mr President,

The time to act is now, and the international community has to rise to its responsibilities and obligations, or else we will keep on adding new chapters to a history of lost opportunities and dashed aspirations. Clearly, the international community must do more to manifest its support and contribute collectively toward a just resolution of the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict, and thus to facilitate the attainment of peace in the region. We look forward for a day where a just and comprehensive peace would be accomplished, and with the attainment of the highest level of protection and respect for human rights of different parties.

I thank you.

