

**Follow-up to decisions of the Human Rights Council - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Occupied Territories**

*TERRY CORMIER, ALTERNATE HEAD OF DELEGATION*

**Statement by Canada – ~~Ambassador Paul Meyer~~**

Canada is concerned by the humanitarian situation in Gaza and the West Bank, and we call on Israel and the Palestinian Authority to fully respect international humanitarian law and principles. The challenge for the Human Rights Council is to look at issues of concern in this region as in many other regions of the world in an objective and balanced manner. Canada strongly supports the use of Special Rapporteurs by the new Human Rights Council. However, in this case, Canada has reservations with respect to the unbalanced mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories which is focussed exclusively on Israeli practices rather than the human rights situation in the West Bank and Gaza as a whole. Canada is concerned with the resolution calling for the fact-finding mission which focuses almost entirely on Israel. It also fails to acknowledge that the Palestinian Authority has a responsibility to prevent the constant firing of rockets into Israel, to resolve the present hostage-taking crisis and to prevent the recurrence of further such criminal acts. Canada welcomes the announcement of the agreement by the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority for an upcoming visit of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to Israel and the Palestinian territories.