

Statement by the

Islamic Republic of Iran

Under agenda item 7
12th Session of the Human Rights Council
Geneva, 29 September 2009

Mr. President,

The ongoing pattern of gross and systematic violation of human rights of the Palestinian people and other inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories including occupied Syrian Golan has been a constant feature of the contemporary history of the Middle East during the past decades.

Numerous cases of violation of international human rights and humanitarian law, including expansion of illegal settlements, increasing number of checkpoints, demolition of houses, imprisonment of innocent people, use of torture, restrictions on freedom of movement, closure of crossings and military incursions as well as construction of illegal Apartheid wall, targeted killings, the use of Palestinians as human shield and humanitarian crisis caused by imposing long and severe blockade have characterized the occupation of Palestine for decades and have been featured regularly and extensively in the reports of international human rights mechanisms.

The recent report by the international independent fact finding mission on Gaza as well as the report by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, presented today to the current session of the Council clearly depicts the atrocities perpetrated against the Palestinian people, which deserve particular attention by the international community.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, once again, strongly condemns severe breaches of international human rights and

humanitarian law against the Palestinian civilians specially during recent military aggressions on Gaza the which constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity in clear defiance of the international law and calls upon the international community to act decisively and take all appropriate measures with a view to putting an immediate end to such atrocities.

Furthermore, Mr. President, the dire situation of Syrian civilians in occupied Golan in particular the situation of detainees including innocent children, as well as imposed restrictions on the freedom of movement of women is alarming and requires particular attention by the Human Rights Council.

Finally, Mr. President,

The root cause of all these atrocities lies within prolonged occupation and prevention of the Palestinian people from exercising their inalienable right to self determination. As long as occupation continues, the sufferings of the Palestinians under occupation will continue with multifaceted consequences. In this context, we would like to once again, call upon the international community and the Human Rights Council in particular to act decisively and take all necessary measures with a view to putting an end to all forms of occupation, aggressions and violations committed by the Israeli regime against the innocent people in the occupied Palestine and other occupied Arab territories.

Thank you,