

# Islamic Republic of I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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**Statement by**

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**before**

**The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)**

**on the Item 31:**

***“The Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices***

***Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People***

***and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories”***

**New York November, 08, 2005**

***In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful***

**Mr. Chairman,**

I have the pleasure of expressing my delegation's appreciation to the Chairman of the "Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and other Arabs of the occupied territories", H.E. Ambassador Parsad Kariyawasam of Sri Lanka, for his skilful leadership in guiding the work of the Committee as well as for submitting an excellent report on the situation of the people in the occupied territories contained in document A/60/380- despite being deprived of accessing to main sources of information in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT).

**Mr. Chairman,**

The continuation of military campaign of the Israeli regime, the occupying power, against the Palestinian people in 2005 resulted again in horrific human losses, brought misery and destruction and created grave humanitarian emergency situation. Israel's atrocious, brutal and horrible treatment of the Palestinian people, as well as, people living in the occupied Syrian Golan was worse than ever. Since the second intifada 3,196 Palestinians, including 618 children, have been killed. The extrajudicial killings continued to

take the lives of political leaders and defenseless women and children- the children on their way to school and some of them sitting on their chairs in school.

As in past years, the Special Committee again was not authorized by Israeli regime to visit the Occupied Palestinian Territory (A/60/380, Para. 13). Therefore, it was deprived of having access to information with regard to the living condition of Palestinians in the occupied territories. However, a glance at the above said report can more or less give us a clear picture on the depth of brutality and inhumane practices exercised by the occupying power against the defenseless civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

**Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished delegates,**

In view of the time limit that has been placed on statements, I will try to only refer to- as appeared in the report of the Special Committee - few examples of inhumane actions by occupying power against the Palestinian people, specially women and children, in their own homeland.

As an example of discrimination, Palestinians are Paying 20 percent more than Israelis for their electricity. Most of taxes on electricity paid by Palestinians goes to Israelis and has never been invested so far in Palestinian communities. One Palestinian village has only one power generator that functions two or three hours a day. On the other hand, Jewish settlers are benefiting from more favorable treatment and lower prices.

In their daily lives women are struggling with poverty, unemployed husbands or the loss of their spouses, children at risk, scarcity of/ or no food to feed their families, demolition of their houses and shrinking health and other social services. All these domestic violence had a severe impact on women and on their children's health. Women are mainly subject to depression, anxiety, phobias and other somatic symptoms. Women cannot reach easily primary health-care dispensaries during pregnancy. They give birth at checkpoints. For instance, as stated in the report of the Special Committee, about 61 women between September 2000 and December 2004 delivered at checkpoints and 36 of their babies died as a result of this inhumane condition. In 2000-2001, 31 pregnant women delivered at checkpoints and 17 of the babies died. In 2002, 16 women had their babies at checkpoints and 11 babies died. This cruelty of Israeli regime has forced Palestinian women to give birth at home, thereby avoiding the risk of being delayed at checkpoints.

As mentioned in the report A/60/380, 95 percent of the women and children surveyed had experienced bombardments and developed post-traumatic disorders such as flashbacks, nightmares, avoidance symptoms and other nervous afflictions; 97.5 percent of them had experienced tear gas. Children in particular are affected by sleep disorders, hyperactivity and lack of concentration or aggressivity. They are the victims of all kinds of violence, ranging from killings, arrests of family members and increasing poverty. They knew no language other than violence in their play, and in their families and in community life. Families are increasingly indebted and can no longer pay school or university fees, leading many children and students to drop out.

The lives of Palestinian children and youth are at risk even on their way to school. Their freedom of movement is severely restricted by long hours of waiting at entry points to the racist wall or at checkpoints and other restrictions. Their level of education and academic achievements are negatively affected by the numerous impediments imposed by the occupying power.

Most students are unable to enroll in or reach universities outside their locality. Teachers in some areas are unable to reach their workplaces regularly. Teachers and students had to cross checkpoints on foot, risking their safety. Education, which used to be the backbone of Palestinian survival, has been deliberately

targeted. In the West Bank, young people identified as “activists” are no longer allowed to go abroad to pursue their studies.

Palestine is indeed continues to be a suffocated open-air prison for Palestinians. Unfortunately, all these have been going on generally unnoticed by the world media- specially the media in the west that remain silent or even work biasly in favor of oppressor.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The separation wall is a major source of injustice to the Palestinian people. The wall is a means to achieve the Israeli goal of depriving the Palestinian people from their inherent national rights. It has serious negative impact on all aspects of the Palestinians’ life. According to the Advisory Opinion of the ICJ, the construction of the wall being built by Israel and its associated régime, are contrary to international law, and all States are under an obligation not to recognize the illegal situation resulting from the construction of the wall and not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by such construction. The United Nations, and especially the General Assembly and the Security Council, must consider appropriate actions against the Israeli regime with a view to destroying the separation wall.

**Mr. Chairman,**

As contained in the report of Special Committee (A/60/380) the working conditions of Palestinian journalists remain very difficult. They do not enjoy the minimum freedom of movement necessary to carry out their duties. Palestinian journalists are prevented from going to places where events are taking place and they have to rely on foreign journalists for information. We urge the Secretary General to seek ways and means to facilitate covering all events in OPT in an impartial manner to enable the people all over the world to know more about the realities in OPT.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Now let me pose few questions through you to those western countries who are always trying to use any kind of pretext against the independent countries and charge them with groundless and false accusation of human rights violation. Why are they closing their eyes on the catastrophes, disasters and human tragedies in the occupied Palestine? Why are they neglecting all these naked atrocities, cruelties, inhumane behaviors, violation of basic human rights of the Palestinian people committed by a lawless regime, which has become synonymous with killing, occupation, land confiscation and injustice? What is the logic behind all these double standard policies practiced by the west? Perhaps in their view, not all women and children including the Palestinians should enjoy the human rights and the right to life!

Finally, I wish to re-emphasis the importance of the role of the “*Special Committee to investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories*” as an integral part of the United Nations system. The Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories must be investigated on a regular basis and should be brought to the attention of the United Nations member states and the international community. We urge the Secretary General to seek all possible ways and means in order to enable the Special Committee to extend its investigation into the Occupied Palestinian Territory so that it gains direct access to first-hand information about the living condition of Palestinians.

**Thank you very much Mr. Chairman**