



PAKISTAN

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Statement

by

**Mr. Raza Bashir Tarar, Director,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan**

in the Fourth Committee

on

**Agenda Item 31: 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
08 November 2005

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan delegation wishes to commend the Special Committee for presenting a comprehensive report on this subject.

2. Pakistan had welcomed the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza as a move in the right direction. We shared the optimism that continuation of this momentum would also lead to similar action in the West Bank and other occupied Palestinian territories. We had hoped that it also would set the stage for constructive engagement between the new Palestinian leadership and Israel.

3. We note with great concern that the resurgence of violence in the recent weeks could have serious implications for the peace process.

4. The continuation of the serious human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territories as detailed by the Committee in its report is a matter of great concern. We are particularly disturbed at the continuing erection of the security wall contrary to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice. This has seriously hampered the movement of the Palestinian people. The continuation of settlements and conflict between the settlers and Palestinian people are also worrisome. Serious difficulties faced by the Palestinian people especially by women and children in access to health facilities, electricity, education, and water, require urgent international attention.

5. There is a crying need for putting an end to extrajudicial executions of Palestinian civilians; the continued imprisonment of over 8,000 Palestinians and the persistence of torture.

6. Pakistan also shares the Committee's concerns about the situation in the occupied Syrian territory.

7. Pakistan has always extended steadfast and unwavering support to the Palestinian cause and the right of the Palestinian people to a homeland of their own. We believe that implementation of the Roadmap and a negotiated two-State solution would lead to the establishment of an independent, sovereign and territorially contiguous Palestinian State existing side-by-side with Israel in peace and security.

8. Pakistan delegation would call upon all parties to respect their obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law as well as under the bilateral and multilateral peace processes to which they are signatories. Shunning violence is a pre-requisite for achieving peace and for the realization of the vision of the two-State solution.

9. The international community should continue to play the role of fair adjudicator and mediator in this process of reconciliation. It, also must be generous in providing financial assistance to strengthen the Palestinian Authority as well as enabling the Palestinian people to combat their myriad socio-economic problems.

10. We urge both parties to adopt a constructive and forward-looking approach. We are confident that this holds the key to resolving one of the most intractable disputes of our time.

Thank you