

MISSION PERMANENTE DU LIBAN  
AUPRES DE  
L'OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES  
A GENEVE

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Statement of  
Ambassador Gebran Soufan  
Permanent Representative of Lebanon

During the special session  
on the situation in Palestine

Geneva July 5, 2006

Mr. President,

The holding of this special session is a success for the newly established Human Rights Council as it overcomes the dilemma about whether to refrain from acting because recent and fragile as some may like to portray it, or move forward and assume responsibilities by being sensitive to the outcry of people, victims of gross and systematic violations of human rights. It chose to respond to the request of Member States, underlying thereby the omnipotence of International Law as a means to settle disputes and echoing as well the concerns of the oppressed, depressed and voiceless.

Mr. President,

The Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories are undergoing a collective punishment by Israel, the occupying power. Should those alarming breaches continue, a daunting genocide and massacre would occur in the Middle East. Ghaza is ablaze and Israel displays its military might. Never had we witnessed in modern history a government and people put behind bars, with such disregard and contempt to International Law and Human Rights, which outrage the conscience of mankind. An urgent and immediate solution is much needed as many lives are at stake.

Mr. President,

Without dwelling on all aspects of this serious and escalating situation that threatens international peace and security, I wish however to mention a few blatant and blunt breaches by Israel of the Universal Declaration of Human rights, which deliberately hinder the enjoyment by the Palestinian People of equal and inalienable rights.

- The freedom from fear and want enshrined in the preamble is completely denied to the Palestinians under Israeli occupation.
- Article 3: The right to life, liberty and security of persons: denied
- Article 5: The right of not being subjected to torture and to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment: denied
- Article 7 : the right to equal protection of the law: denied.
- Article 9: The right of not being subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile is denied, let alone the right of return of thousands of Palestinian Refugees in host countries and the diaspora.
- Article 15 :The right to a nationality, vetoed and confiscated by Israel. There lies the tragic and traumatic story of the Palestinian people.
- Article 25 : In theory, the rights to health, food, clothing, housing and medical care are acknowledged for all human beings. In real life, Palestinian houses and infrastructures are being destroyed including networks , power plants and bridges

Mr. President,

For the weak, the law is the protector, the savior and the liberator, particularly for all innocents and civilians.

I call upon the Human Rights Council to adopt the O.I.C. draft resolution on Palestine and contribute to promoting a negotiated solution to the current crisis.

I thank you.