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### Third special session of the Human Rights Council

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The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions in Geneva, United Nations departments and bodies, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and has the honour to inform them that the Secretariat has received today at 4.00 pm a request addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council by the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain, on behalf of the Group of Arab States and the Ambassador of Pakistan, on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to convene a special session "on the gross human rights violations emanating from Israeli military incursions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory including the recent one in Northern Gaza and the assault on Beit Hanoun".

The above-mentioned request reads as follows: "*Upon the decision of the Group of Arab States and the Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), we have the honour to request you to convene a special session of the Human Rights Council on Tuesday, 14 November 2006, or immediately thereafter to consider and take action on the gross human rights violations emanating from Israeli military incursions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the recent one in Northern Gaza and the assault on Beit Hanoun*".

In order for a special session to be convened, in conformity with operative paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 60/251, the support of one-third of the membership of the Council (16 members or more) is required. The above-mentioned request was signed by the following 24 Member States: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Cuba, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and Zambia.

After consultation with the President of the Human Rights Council, the Secretariat will inform shortly all Permanent Missions in Geneva, United Nations departments and bodies, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations of the date and location of the special session.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

10 November 2006