OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES À GENÈVE HAUT COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Third special session of the Human Rights Council Geneva, 15 November 2006

(Room XVII)

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 President of the Human Rights Council, having consulted with interested parties, has decided to convene a special session on Wednesday, 15 November 2006, starting at 10.00 am, in order to respond to the request of the Ambassador of Bahrain, on behalf of the Group of Arab States, and the Ambassador of Pakistan, on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, "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" signed by 24 Member States.

Further to its note verbal of 10 November 2006, the Secretariat would like to inform all delegations that the Permanent Mission of Ecuador has also signed the above request.

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council has also the honour to circulate, attached herewith, the draft resolution entitled "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" submitted to the Secretariat today at 5.35 pm by the Permanent Representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and by the Permanent Representative of Bahrain on behalf of the Group of Arab States.

The modalities for the 1st special session held on 5 and 6 July 2006 that were prepared by the President of the Council in consultation with the Bureau are also attached for ease of reference.

13 November 2006

Recorded by the Secretarial at 5.35 pm

DRAFT RESOLUTION

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 Human Rights Council,

Affirming the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civil Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory including East Jerusalem,

Gravely concerned at the continued violation by the occupying Power, Israel, of the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

Recognizing that the Israeli military incursions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the recent incursion in Northern Gaza and the assault on Beit Hanoun, constitute a collective punishment of the civilians therein and exacerbate the severe humanitarian crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

Taking note of the statement of the Secretary General of 8 November 2006 in which he stated that he "was shocked to learn about the Israeli military operation carried out early today in a residential area in Beit Hanoun, which has resulted in the deaths of at least 18 Palestinians, including 8 children and 7 women.",

Emphasizing that the Israeli targeting of Palestinian civilians including women and children constitutes a gross violation of human rights law and international humanitarian law,

Affirming that under international humanitarian law, the medical personnel and means of transport of the Palestine Red Crescent Society must be protected and respected in all circumstances,

- 1. Expresses its shock at the horror of Israeli targeting and killing of Palestinian civilians in Beit Hanoun while asleep and other civilians fleeing earlier Israeli bombardment,
- 2. Condemns the Israeli targeting and killing of Palestinian civilians, including women and children, as well as medics in Beit Hanoun and other Palestinian towns and villages, and calls for bringing the perpetrators thereof to justice;
- 3. Denounces the Israeli massive destruction of Palestinian homes, property and infrastructure in Beit Hanoun;
- 4. Expresses its alarm at the gross and systematic violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory by the occupying Power, Israel, and calls for urgent international action to put an immediate end to these violations including those emanating from the series of incessant and repeated Israeli military incursions therein;

- 5. Calls for immediate protection of the Palestinian civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in compliance with human rights law and international humanitarian law;
- 6. Decides to dispatch a high level fact-finding mission urgently to Beit Hanoun.

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Special session of the Human Rights Council Geneva, 5 July 2006

Salle des Assemblées (3.00 to 6.00 pm)

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights 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 circulate the modalities as prepared by the President of the Human Rights Council in consultation with the Bureau for the special session to be held on Wednesday 5 July from 3.00 to 6.00 pm in Salle des Assemblées.

4 July 2006

Suggestion for the first special session of the Human Rights Council, in an interim basis

- These suggestions should be applied in an interim basis, as the Council will address in the future the question of its methods of work.
- The special session shall only deal with the specific question for which it was convened. Therefore, the only agenda item shall be the specific question.

Proposals

Provisions of rule 120 of the GA Rules of Procedure, apply ("as a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding the meeting. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments or of motions as to procedure, even though such amendments and motions have not been circulated or have only been circulated the same day").

Modalities for the voting procedure will be the same used at the first session of the Council, adjusting concerned countries which will be given 3 minutes.

List of speakers and speaking-time limits:

- The list of speakers will be prepared by the Secretariat. The list will be drawn up in chronological order of registration. HRC Members and concerned countries will be given the floor first, followed by non-HRC members and other observers.
- Given the short duration of the special session and the number of expected interventions, time should be allotted as follow: 5 minutes Member States and concerned countries; 3 minutes Non-Member States; 3 minutes intergovernmental organizations, specialized agencies, national institutions and NGOs.
- However, if the list of speakers exceeds 3 hours, it will be necessary to distribute the time proportionally.

Rights of reply and points of order:

- Rights of reply will be limited to two replies of three minutes for the first and two minutes
 for the second and all rights of reply will be exercised at the end of the discussion of the
 question.
- In accordance with rule 113 of the rules of procedure of the GA, a speaker may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion. Consequently, the President will not allow the use of points of order to express disagreement with or provide any argument in favour of or against questions of substance raised.