

In the name of God the Compassionate the merciful

<sup>by</sup>  
**Statement H. E. Mr. Hamid BAIEDINEJAD**  
**Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of**  
**the Islamic Republic of Iran**  
**on the Report of the High Level Fact-Finding Mission**  
**to Beit Hanoun**  
**Ninth Session of the Human Rights Council**  
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Mr. President,

We would like to welcome Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the head of the high level fact finding mission to Biet Hanoun and to thank him for the statement as well as the comprehensive report submitted to the Council for today's consideration.

Mr. President,

Undoubtedly, the shocking findings of the mission contained in the report of the mission is a factual and documented version of just one of atrocities which has been occurred on a daily basis in the occupied Palestine during the past six decades. The report reveals in depth an accurate assessment of the shelling of Biet Hanoun on 8 November 2006 and the series of events preceded it. The events which according to the report, put the number of Palestinians killed during the incursion, together with the victims of 8 November heinous attack at between 77 and 82 and as well as around 250 others wounded, including at least 67 children and 58 women. The mission concluded that the events preceding the shelling on 8 November had a direct and negative impact on the situation of victims and survivors of the shelling and the inhabitants of Biet Hanoun lived in a state of constant fear and anxiety and were traumatized by the deaths and injuries they witnessed, the destruction of property and uncertainty as to what would occur next.

The fact that the shelling took place early on the morning of 8 November 2006, 24 hours after the military withdrew from the town, when the inhabitants

were returning to normal life after the trauma of the incursion and when the victims of the shelling were either asleep in their homes or were returning from morning prayer all manifest that the operation had no aim but to collectively punish the civilians out of blind brutality and disproportionate mass killings of the innocent civilians including women and children. The shelling on 8 November resulted in the immediate death or mortal wounding of 19 civilians, including seven children and six women, and over 50 others were wounded during the attack. Significance obstacles in the way of emergency treatment are also noteworthy.

Mr. President,

It is highly distressing that, as the mission recognized all Gazans are victims of the occupation and live with the constant disruptions to life, fear of attack and humiliation and that there were many more victims than the 19 killed in the shelling. The victims are persons who individually or collectively suffered harm, including physical or mental injury, emotional suffering, economic loss or substantial impairment of their fundamental rights as a result of the shelling. The mission has also recognized that the extremely difficult conditions of life facing all Gazans in many instances constitutes gross violations of human rights and international humanitarian law and that the blockade amounts to collective punishment contrary to international humanitarian law.

Mr. President,

We fully share the conclusion of the mission that the occupation remains the root cause of the bleak situation that the mission only briefly sketched in the submitted report. We also share the conclusion that the shelling of Biet Hanoun constituted a war crime, Islamic Republic of Iran firmly believes that the shelling of Biet Hanoun is certainly constitutes a war crime and severe breach of international human rights law as well as international humanitarian law which amounts to crime against humanity. There is no doubt that the perpetrators of such war crimes should be brought to justice and the Zionist regime should be held responsible for all the crimes carried out in the region. There is therefore an urgent need to create a follow-up mechanism to that effect.

It is high time that the international community and in particular the Human Rights Council, to take all necessary and concrete measures to put an immediate end to gross and systematic violation of human rights committed by the Zionist regime against the innocent people of Palestine, and to prevent the repetition of such atrocities in the occupiers Palestine.

**Thank you, Mr. President**