

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

**Statement by H. E. Mr. Hamid BAIEDINEJAD
Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of
the Islamic Republic of Iran
on item 7
before
the Ninth Human Rights Council
Geneva, 18 September 2008**

Mr. President,

As the international community is commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human rights, the plight of Palestinian people who have been subjected to occupation, aggression, massive and systematic violation of human rights by the Zionist regime for more than six decades should not be forgotten.

Despite numerous resolutions by the international community through the General Assembly, Security Council and the Human Rights Council, Palestinian people are still deprived of exercising their right to self-determination on their own homeland. Expansion of settlements, increasing checkpoints, demolition of houses, extrajudicial killings, imprisonment of innocent people, use of torture, closure of crossings and military incursions as well as new violations of human rights and humanitarian law such as the construction of illegal wall, targeted killings and the use of Palestinians as human shield and humanitarian crisis have characterized the occupation of Palestine for many years and have featured regularly in reports of international human rights mechanisms.

Mr. President,

Longstanding sufferings of the Palestinian people have been recently exacerbated by severe military incursions and economic blockades in occupied territories and in particular in Gaza Strip.

Imposed restrictions on the movement of people and goods had a negative impact on the Gaza strip population's enjoyment of a wide range of their human rights, particularly their economic, social and cultural rights and also rights to life, human dignity and freedom of movement. In accordance with the international reports regular military incursions, the closure of crossings and reduction of fuel have produced a humanitarian crisis which has a destructive impact on life in Gaza in terms of food, fuel, energy and water, health care, education, unemployment and poverty.

Since the beginning of the crisis, the international community and particularly the Human Rights Council have repeatedly expressed its deep concern and condemnation over the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in occupied territories. Regrettably, no concrete measures have been taken and the Zionist regime within a general climate of impunity has continued to perpetuate massive and systematic violation of human rights in defiance of the international decisions and resolutions.

Mr. President,

We would like, once again, to call upon the international community and particularly this august body to take all necessary measures to put an immediate end to the continuation of atrocities against the innocent people of Palestine in the occupied territories.

Thank you Mr. President