

الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية

RÉPUBLIQUE ALGÉRIENNE DÉMOCRATIQUE ET POPULAIRE

MISSION PERMANENTE
AUPRÈS DE L'OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES
ET DES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES
EN SUISSE



البعثة الدائمة
لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة
والمنظمات الدولية بسويسرا

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Lebanon

Statement
by H.E. Idriss JAZAIRY, Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of Algeria

Geneva 1 December 2006

Mr President,

I associate my Delegation to the statements made in the name of OIC and the Arab Group.

In his message of 29 November 2006, the UN Secretary General expressed the hope that the Council will take care to handle developments in the Middle East in an impartial way and not allow it to monopolize attention at the expense of other issues.

He expressed concern for the issue of Darfur for which the African Group co-sponsored a request for a Special session of the Council. He did not, however, refer in this message to the tragic predicament of the bereaved families of Iraq mourning the recent death of their 650 000 loved ones and to whom my delegation wishes to address its deep sympathy and compassion.

It is hardly a lack of impartiality to have called for Special sessions of the Council on the egregious violations of human rights by Israel in Lebanon and also on the Israeli massacres of Beit Hanoun. With respect in particular to Lebanon, the contents of the report of the Commission of Inquiry on Lebanon, set up by the 2nd Special Session of our Council, on the contrary demonstrate its timeliness.

The Commission pointed to the "excessive indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force" by the invading Israeli Army which it says "escalated a border incident into a general attack against the entire Lebanese territory."

The report describes these actions as having "the characteristics of an armed aggression". The report also mentions the failure of Israel to distinguish civilian objects from military targets, its resort in particular to cluster munitions used in ways which "transgress the law", its direct attacks on medical and relief personnel, as well as the fact that one third of the casualties and deaths were children.

The report details a long list of atrocities perpetrated by Israel in Lebanon including the wilful targeting of fleeing civilians and the wanton destruction of civilian property and infrastructure amounting it says "to collective punishment".

Surely, denouncing such egregious violations of human rights does not warrant accusing the Council of lacking impartiality. Being intimidated into keeping silent about them certainly would.

We only regret the lack of boldness of the report with respect to the recommendations formulated and which are hardly consistent with the shocking nature of the Commission of Inquiry's findings.

We appreciate, however, how hard it is for independent experts to be explicit about Israel's violations of human rights outside the politically correct statements sending back to back the Israeli state aggressor and the Arab victim whoever he may be should he dare to resist aggression or colonization.

So from this perspective, we welcome the bold reporting on the fact-finding on the Israeli atrocities in Lebanon and hope that future "recommending" as it were, will be thereby emboldened.

I thank you