

FINLAND

Tapani Kivelä

Mr, President,

I would like to thank you, Professor Dugard, for your report and for the work you have accomplished in the course of the past year. The situation between Israel and the Palestinians has been and, unfortunately, continues to be a cause for great concern for the European Union. The EU is closely following the situation in the Occupied Palestinian territories.

I would like to ask you the following questions on behalf of the European Union.

1. How would you comment on the human rights situation in Palestinian territories since your last report and what, according to you, would be the most meaningful measures to be taken by both sides in order to improve the human rights situation?

2. You report extensively on the various limitations set by Israel which have contributed to a weakening of the Palestinian economy. How would you comment on the impact of these limitations on economic and social rights in the Palestinian Territories in the light of international human rights instruments?

3. You mentioned in your report that you met Palestinian NGOs. What role could you envisage Palestinian NGOs playing in efforts to improve the human rights situation in the Palestinian Territories?

4. You mention in your report that there are about 300 children among 9,000 prisoners in Israeli jails. How would you comment on their situation?

Thank you Mr. President