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Statement

by

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of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

before

“The 3rd Session of the Human Rights Council”

on

***The report of the High-Level Commission
of Inquiry on Lebanon***

Geneva, 1 December 2006

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. President,

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC. My delegation notes with appreciation the report of the High – Level Commission of Inquiry.

Mr. President,

The report of the Commission of Inquiry contained in document A/HRC/3/2 confirmed that the aggression and hostilities committed by Israel in Lebanon constitute a significant pattern of excessive, indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force by Israel against Lebanese civilians, civilian objects, failing to distinguish civilians from combatants and civilian objects from military targets.

Indeed, The Commission has formed a clear view that, the deliberate and lethal attacks by Israel on civilians and civilian objects amounted to collective punishment. It considers that the excessive, indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force by Israel goes beyond reasonable arguments of military necessity and of proportionality, and clearly failed to distinguish between civilian and military targets, thus constituting a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law.

The report provides enlightening details about the grave violations of human rights and humanitarian law to which the people of Lebanon has been subjected for more than one month. Some other findings which are alarming are as follow:

- The Commission documented various cases of direct attacks on medical and relief personnel.
- The Commission confirmed the use of cluster munitions, 90% of which were fired by Israel during the last 72 hours of the conflict. The Commission finds that these weapons were used deliberately to turn large areas of fertile agricultural land into “no go” areas for the civilian population.
- The Commission received a number of reports regarding the use of phosphorous weapons.
- The Commission came to the conclusion that Israel did not give effective warning as required under international humanitarian law and often these warnings contributed to creating a climate of fear and panic among the civilian population.
- The report acknowledges that the most aspects of the conflict were the massive displacement of civilians as the result of indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian property and infrastructure.
- Blockade on Lebanon had an impact on the humanitarian situation, the civilian population, the environment, and the economy as a whole.
- The Commission estimated that one third of the casualties and deaths were children.
- The Commission has found no justification for the 30 direct attacks by Israel on UN position.

We call on the Council to condemn gross ad systematic Israeli human rights and humanitarian law violations. The Council should take the critical step in this regard.

Mr. President,

In spite of its positive general thrust, the report has gone beyond the mandate of the Commission of inquiry in some areas. The report recommendations fall short of expectations in addressing effectively the responsibility of the Council in facing the crimes committed by Israel.

Thank you