

I have the honor

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Introduction of L-15 : Situation of human rights in Palestine and other Occupied Arab territories.

Mr. President,

The people of Palestine, and other occupied Arab territories, have been victims of great injustice and human rights abuses.

The situation in the occupied Palestinian Territory has worsened in recent months due to increasing indiscriminate attacks killing, maiming and injuring of the civilian population. The economic siege caused by cutting off international aid and the withholding of Palestinian tax revenues has added to the misery and hardship of the Palestinians.

The Special Rapporteur on Palestine in his recent report after visiting the occupied Palestinian Territory has attested to the grave human rights and humanitarian situation. The recent events involving in Gaza have further exacerbated the human rights situation and the plight and suffering of Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The Human Rights Council, as the custodian of basic rights and fundamental freedoms, has the solemn responsibility to consider this issue with a view to address Israeli human rights violations in Palestine and other occupied territories as well as to address the ramifications of this occupation on the human rights situation. Operative paragraph 3 of Resolution A/60/251 provided that the Council should address situations of violations of human rights including gross and systematic violations.

In accordance with this mandate, and in view of the gravity of human rights situation, OIC member states have, therefore, tabled draft resolution L.15 entitled "Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories" for consideration and adoption by the Council.

Keeping in view the time constraints due to Council's extensive engagement in its own institution building, L.15 is extremely brief and goes to the crux of the matter. It calls for:

- (a) Reports by relevant special rapporteurs regarding human rights violations in occupied Palestine to the next session of the Council in September 2006; and
- (b) Substantive consideration of human rights violations and implications of the Israeli occupation of Palestine at its next session and following sessions.

The OIC countries look forward to unanimous support/ adoption of this resolution.

→ Correction