



PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

**MR. FARUKH AMIL
ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

IN

THE RESUMED 10TH EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**ILLEGAL ISRAELI ACTIONS IN OCCUPIED EAST JERUSALEM
AND THE REST OF THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY**

17 NOVEMBER 2006

New York

Statement by Mr. Farukh Amil, Acting Permanent Representative of Pakistan during the Resumed 10th Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly on Illegal Israeli Actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

17 November 2006

Thank you Madam President,

1. The United Nations has a permanent responsibility towards the question of Palestine until it is resolved in all its aspects in a satisfactory manner in accordance with international legitimacy.
2. The convening of this emergency special session is recognition of the fact that failure of the Security Council to discharge its responsibilities on behalf of all the Member States, does not relieve Member States of their obligations, or the United Nations, in particular the General Assembly, of its responsibility under the Charter with regard to the maintenance of international peace and security.
3. It also reaffirms that discharge by the General Assembly of its responsibilities in these respects calls for possibilities of observation which would ascertain the facts and expose aggressors; and for the possibility of timely recommendation by the General Assembly to Members of the United Nations for collective action which, to be effective, should be prompt.
4. The illegal Israeli actions including indiscriminate and disproportionate use of military force in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, particularly the escalation in Gaza recently, including the killing of innocent children and women in Beit Hanoun on November 8, are acts of such gravity that they cannot let the collective conscience of the international community be unmoved. No wonder there is widespread condemnation of these acts; and there are calls for an end to the impunity enjoyed by Israel. There is a universal demand for respect for international human rights and international humanitarian law. In the face of these atrocities, sympathy, solidarity and support for the Palestinian people remains universal and stronger than ever.
5. It is unfortunate that the Security Council has persistently failed to respond to loud and clear calls for action, including those made recently by many of us at its meeting on 9 November. But while the Security Council has not risen to the challenge, the United Nations should.
6. On 15 November, the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on the human rights violations emanating from Israeli military incursions in the Occupied Territories including the assault in Beit Hanoun; and decided to dispatch urgently a high-level fact finding mission. Today, the General Assembly is shouldering its responsibilities.

Madam President,

7. Pakistan fully supports the statements by the representatives of Cuba and Azerbaijan on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organization of the Islamic Conference respectively. The OIC Foreign Ministers are meeting tomorrow in Jeddah to chart out a collective response to the situation, including provision of necessary support to our Palestinian sisters and brothers.

8. We support the call for an immediate ceasefire in the Occupied Palestinian Territories - a ceasefire that is credible, sustainable and verifiable. Pakistan also supports the request to the Secretary General to establish a fact-finding mission on the Beit Hanoun attack and to report to the Assembly within 30 days. The independent investigation should also look into the implications of this incident for the violations of international humanitarian law.

9. Beyond these immediate measures and provision of humanitarian assistance, the international community should renew efforts for a just, comprehensive and durable peace in the Middle East. That strategic objective was underlined in the penultimate paragraph of Security Council resolution 1701 which brought an end to the recent conflict in Lebanon. The same vision is also contained in the draft resolution now under consideration of this Assembly, and which we support.

Madam President,

10. The events in the Occupied Palestinian Territories have global reverberations. President Musharraf has stated “the greatest challenge to global security; to the campaign against terrorism; to the promotion of harmony among civilizations; to the credibility of the United Nations, is the cauldron of conflict that is the Middle East”. We must address all the festering problems of the region, comprehensively and fairly. It is time, first and foremost, to end the tragedy of Palestine, which is the core of the Middle East conflict and the major source of anger that is felt by many people throughout the Muslim world.

11. Pakistan remains steadfast in support of the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people for freedom and self-determination and a viable, sovereign and independent Palestinian State.

12. The basic framework and elements of a solution are already there – in the previous agreements; relevant Security Council resolutions including 242(1967), 338(1973), 1397(2002) and 1515(2003); the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the road map.

13. Calls for ceasefire and resumption of the peace process should be heeded. To that end, Pakistan would again urge the two sides, Israel and the Palestinians, to take a series of immediate and simultaneous confidence building measures.

14. Israel should immediately end its military campaign in Gaza; release Palestinian prisoners including cabinet members and legislators; remove check points and other obstacles to facilitate access and movement of civilians and humanitarian workers; halt and reverse construction of the Separation Wall; freeze settlement activities; release customs and VAT payments to the Palestinian Authority; and accept negotiations with the Palestinian Authority, led by President Mahmoud Abbas.

15. To the Palestinian side, we also appeal that they halt rocket attacks and violence; secure release of the captured Israeli soldier; and achieve internal cohesion. We hope the ongoing efforts for establishing a national unity government would be fruitful.

16. These confidence building measures should lead to early negotiations, with the support and, as necessary, the intercession of the Security Council, the Secretary General, the Quartet and all others who are able and willing to assist.

17. We understand that these are difficult issues. But their solutions are not beyond the capacity of diplomacy and ingenuity. What is required is commitment for peace and political will on part of all to move forward, and a fair and impartial supporting role of the international community. The Security Council also has a golden opportunity to silence its critics by playing such a role.

Madam President,

18. It is a reality that each passing day of violence and reprisals is a setback to the quest for a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian question and durable peace in the Middle East. There is another important reality - that durable solutions cannot be imposed by force or unilateral actions. We must therefore restore the hope for peace and pave the way for dialogue and negotiations. This is the larger message that should emanate from today's meeting.

Thank you.