



Bangladesh

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**Statement by
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Agenda Item 53: Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices
Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the
Occupied Territories
12 November 2012**

Madam Chair,

At the outset, I wish to convey our appreciation to Ambassador Palitha Kohana, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka for his statement introducing the 'Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories'. We thank the Special Committee for the comprehensive report despite non-cooperation by the occupying authority.

Madam Chair,

The report reflects, yet again, appalling human rights and humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. We regret that repeated appeals of the international community to improve the deteriorating conditions of the Palestinian people remain unheeded. The people in the Occupied Territories continue to suffer due to Israeli blockades, closures, confiscation of land and demolition of houses. The illegal separation wall continues to divide and isolate communities, destroying livelihoods and preventing hundreds of thousands access to their jobs, families, markets, schools and hospitals. Gaza borders have been subject to a regime of closure that is without precedent anywhere. This closure is tantamount to strangulation of an entire population in the form of collective punishment. The quality of life of the Palestinians had already

diminished to subsistence level. Periodic escalation of violence only leads to further despair and destitution. Israel is doing so purposefully to generate fear, fury and distress among Palestinians. We deplore Israeli policy of collective punishment, policy of forcing Palestinian people off their land, detaining people for a long time without charge, restricting freedom of movement of and property ownership by Palestinian people, deportation of the Palestinian inhabitants and depriving people from their legitimate claim on natural resources including scarce water resource.

Madam Chair,

One issue that deserves the most serious attention is the continued construction of Jewish settlement in the occupied territories. The international community made repeated call to cease such activities and Israel has time and again expressed commitment to do so. We cannot talk about restart of peace process, when the settlement activities continue unabated. The settlements present an existential threat to the viability of a future Palestinian state. The most optimists would struggle to see the shape of a viable, contiguous Palestinian State under the circumstances. The International Court of Justice described the violation by Israel of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination as the violation of an *erga omnes* obligation. Therefore, the violation is a matter of concern to all States. If we are serious about peace in the Middle-East, we must exert collective pressure on Israel to stop expansion of illegal settlements and dismantle the existing ones in line with its obligations under article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Madam Chair,

We urge Israel to fulfill its legal obligation, as the occupying power, to ensure that all inhabitants are safeguarded against all acts of violence or threats; to cease illegal detention of Palestinian people including the children; to stop destruction of homes and land confiscation; to allow Palestinian people's access to their lands, employment and natural resources; to desist from transferring its population to the territories it has occupied; to lift its embargo against Palestinians and immediately open all border crossings to allow free movement of goods, persons and humanitarian aid.

Madam Chair,

We express our total solidarity with the Palestinian people and reiterate our full and unwavering support to the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to a sovereign and independent State. We demand complete and unconditional withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories including East Jerusalem and all other occupied Arab lands. Otherwise, peace, hope and prosperity of the people in the Middle-East will remain as elusive as ever.

I thank you Madam Chair.