

United Nations Human Rights Council: Special Sessions Resolutions

Special Session Resolution S-1/Res.1

Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

The Human Rights Council,
Guided by the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Affirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civil Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to other occupied Arab territories,

Expressing deep concern at the breaches by Israel, the occupying Power, of international humanitarian law and human rights law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the arbitrary arrest of Palestinian ministers, members of the Palestinian Legislative Council and other officials, as well as the arbitrary arrest of other civilians, the military attacks against Palestinian ministries, including the office of the Premier, and the destruction of Palestinian infrastructure, including water networks, power plants and bridges,

1. *Expresses grave concern* at the violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people caused by the Israeli occupation, including the current extensive Israeli military operations against Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;
2. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, end its military operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, abide scrupulously by the provisions of international humanitarian law and human rights law, and refrain from imposing collective punishment on Palestinian civilians;
3. *Expresses grave concern* at the detrimental impact of the current Israeli military operation on the already deteriorating humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian people;
4. *Urges* Israel, the occupying Power, to immediately release the arrested Palestinian ministers, members of the Palestinian Legislative Council and other officials, as well as all other arrested Palestinian civilians;
5. *Urges* all concerned parties to respect the rules of international humanitarian law, to refrain from violence against the civilian population

and to treat under all circumstances all detained combatants and civilians in accordance with the Geneva Conventions;

6. *Decides* to dispatch an urgent fact-finding mission headed by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967;

7. *Calls* for a negotiated solution to the current crisis.

2nd meeting, 6 July 2006

Adopted by a recorded vote of 29 votes to 11 with 5 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Uruguay, Zambia.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Mexico, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Switzerland.

Against: Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Special Session Resolution S-2/1

The grave situation of human rights in Lebanon caused by Israeli military operations

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights instruments,

Acknowledging that peace and security, development and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations system,

Recalling General Assembly Resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 in which the Assembly decided that the Human Rights Council:

(a) Should address situations of violations of human rights, including gross and systematic violations, and make recommendations thereon; and

(b) Shall respond promptly to human rights emergencies,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, relevant human rights instruments and international humanitarian law, in particular the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907 on the Laws and Customs of War on Land

which prohibit attacks and bombardment of civilian populations and objects and lay down obligations for general protection against dangers arising from military operations against civilian objects, hospitals, relief materials and means of transportation,

Recalling the commitments of the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto,

Reaffirming that each High Contracting Party to the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Geneva Convention) is under obligation to take action against persons alleged to have committed or to have ordered the commission of grave breaches of the Convention, and recalling the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity,

Emphasizing that human rights law and international humanitarian law are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

Stressing that the right to life constitutes the most fundamental of all human rights,

Condemning Israeli military operations in Lebanon, which constitute gross and systematic human rights violations of the Lebanese people,

Appalled at the massive violations of the human rights of the people of Lebanon by Israel resulting in the massacre of thousands of civilians, injuries, extensive damage to civilian infrastructure, displacement of 1 million people, and outflows of refugees fleeing heavy shelling and bombardment against the civilian population,

Strongly condemning the indiscriminate and massive Israeli air strikes, in particular on the village of Qana on 30 July 2006, and the targeting of United Nations peacekeepers at the United Nations observer post in southern Lebanon on 25 July 2006,

Taking note of the strong condemnation by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights of the killing of civilians in Qana, her call to take measures to protect civilian lives and civilian objects and her reiteration of the need for independent investigation, with the involvement of international experts,

Noting the extreme concern expressed by the Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights of internally displaced persons, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and the Special Rapporteur on the right to food about the continuing adverse impact on the human rights and the humanitarian situation of the civilian population in Lebanon,

Emphasizing that attacks and killings of innocent civilians and the destruction of houses, property and infrastructure in Lebanon are a breach of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and international humanitarian law as well as are flagrant violations of human rights,

Recognizing the urgent need to address the dire humanitarian situation in

Lebanon, including through the immediate lifting of the blockade of Lebanon imposed by Israel,

Noting with concern the environmental degradation caused by Israeli strikes against power plants and their adverse impact on health,

Concerned at the targeting of the communication and media networks in Lebanon,

Outraged at the continuing senseless killings by Israel, with impunity, of children, women, the elderly and other civilians in Lebanon,

1. *Strongly condemns* the grave Israeli violations of human rights and breaches of international humanitarian law in Lebanon;

2. *Condemns* the massive bombardment of Lebanese civilian populations, especially the massacres in Qana, Marwaheen, Al Duweir, Al Bayadah, Al Qaa, Chiyah, Ghazieh and other towns of Lebanon, causing thousands of deaths and injuries, mostly among children and women, and the displacement of 1 million civilians, according to a preliminary assessment, thus exacerbating the magnitude of the human suffering of the Lebanese;

3. *Also condemns* the Israeli bombardment of vital civilian infrastructure resulting in extensive destruction and heavy damage to public and private properties;

4. *Calls upon* Israel to abide, immediately and scrupulously, by its obligations under human rights law, in particular the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and international humanitarian law;

5. *Urges* all concerned parties to respect the rules of international humanitarian law, to refrain from violence against the civilian population and to treat under all circumstances all detained combatants and civilians in accordance with the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949;

6. *Calls upon* Israel to immediately stop military operations against the civilian population and civilian objects resulting in death and destruction and serious violations of human rights;

7. *Decides* to urgently establish and immediately dispatch a high-level commission of inquiry comprising of eminent experts on human rights law and international humanitarian law, including the possibility of inviting the relevant United Nations special procedures to be nominated to the Commission:

(a) To investigate the systematic targeting and killings of civilians by Israel in Lebanon;

(b) To examine the types of weapons used by Israel and their conformity with international law;

(c) To assess the extent and deadly impact of Israeli attacks on human life, property, critical infrastructure and the environment;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide all administrative, technical and logistical assistance required to enable the Commission of Inquiry to fulfil its mandate promptly and efficiently;

9. *Calls upon* the international community urgently to provide the Government of Lebanon with humanitarian and financial assistance to enable it to deal with the worsening humanitarian disaster, rehabilitation of victims, return of displaced persons and restoration of the essential infrastructure;

10. *Requests* the Commission of Inquiry to report to the Council no later than 1 September 2006 on progress made towards the fulfilment of its mandate.

3rd meeting, 11 August 2006

Adopted by a recorded vote of 27 votes to 11 with 8 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Cuba, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Uruguay, Zambia.

Against: Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Nigeria, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Switzerland.

Special Session Resolution S-3/1

Human rights violations emanating from Israeli military incursions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the recent one in northern Gaza and the assault on Beit Hanoun

The Human Rights Council,

Affirming the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory including East Jerusalem,

Gravely concerned at the continued violation by the occupying Power, Israel, of the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

Recognizing that the Israeli military incursions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the recent incursion in northern Gaza and the assault on Beit Hanoun, constitute a collective punishment of the civilians therein and exacerbate the severe humanitarian crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

Taking note of the sense of shock expressed by the Secretary-General on the Israeli military operations carried out in Beit Hanoun on 8 November 2006,

Emphasizing that the Israeli wilful killing of Palestinian civilians, including women and children, constitutes a gross violation of human rights law and international humanitarian law,

Affirming that, under international humanitarian law, the medical personnel and means of transport of the Palestine Red Crescent Society must be protected and respected in all circumstances,

1. *Expresses its shock* at the horror of Israeli killing of Palestinian civilians

in Beit Hanoun while asleep and other civilians fleeing earlier Israeli bombardment;

2. *Condemns* the Israeli killing of Palestinian civilians, including women and children, as well as of medics in Beit Hanoun and other Palestinian towns and villages, and calls for bringing the perpetrators thereof to justice;

3. *Denounces* the Israeli massive destruction of Palestinian homes, property and infrastructure in Beit Hanoun;

4. *Expresses its alarm* at the gross and systematic violations of human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory by the occupying Power, Israel, and calls for urgent international action to put an immediate end to these violations including those emanating from the series of incessant and repeated Israeli military incursions therein;

5. *Calls* for immediate protection of the Palestinian civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in compliance with human rights law and international humanitarian law;

6. *Urges* all concerned parties to respect the rules of international humanitarian law, to refrain from violence against the civilian population and to treat under all circumstances all detained combatants and civilians in accordance with the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949;

7. *Decides* to dispatch urgently a high-level fact-finding mission, to be appointed by the President of the Human Rights Council, to travel to Beit Hanoun to, inter alia: (a) assess the situation of victims; (b) address the needs of survivors; and (c) make recommendations on ways and means to protect Palestinian civilians against any further Israeli assaults;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide all administrative, technical and logistical assistance required to enable the fact-finding mission to fulfil its mandate promptly and efficiently;

9. *Requests* the fact-finding mission to report to the Council no later than the middle of December 2006 on progress made towards the fulfilment of its mandate.

2nd meeting, 15 November 2006

Adopted by a roll call vote of 32 votes to 8 with 6 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Ecuador, Gabon, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Uruguay, Zambia.

Abstaining: France, Guatemala, Japan, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Ukraine.

Against: Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.