



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives  
to the United Nations Office at Geneva

**21<sup>st</sup> Special Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council  
Geneva, 23 July 2014**

**Statement by His Excellency Mr. Abdullah Hameed, Ambassador at Large  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Maldives**

*Check Against Delivery*

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Thank you Mr. President,

At the outset, the Maldives aligns itself with the statement delivered by Pakistan on behalf of OIC.

I would like to thank the Office of the High Commissioner and the country delegations that supported the convening of this Special Session. The Maldives believes that more timely action should have been taken on this issue by this Council.

The Maldives strongly condemns the mass killings and the daily massacre of innocent civilians including women, children, in Palestine by the occupying power, Israel. The atrocities committed by Israel violate every international law, most importantly, international humanitarian law. We call on Israel, to immediately stop the killing, and start respecting human life and human dignity and immediately withdraw from the Gaza Strip.

Mr President,

Israel and its supporters continue to claim that its actions are in self-defence. We ask Israel and its supporters what threat did the four young boys playing on the Gaza beach pose to Israel? Or what danger the three boys who were playing on the roof of their house pose? What if they were your own children? What if it was your home? Are the children, the civilians of Gaza less deserving than your own?

We call on the countries that provide arms and finances that enable Israel to carryout the killings, to stop such assistance immediately; to start showing humanity; and to start respecting the value of human life. Your weapons and money are taking away the lives of pregnant women, infants, and babies. The global public is asking you to use your influence to stop the killing.

We would like to remind Israel of its obligations under international law and relevant UN resolutions, in particular the relevant Geneva Conventions, regarding the treatment of unarmed civilians during conflict.

It is very worrying that this massacre of unarmed civilians by the Israeli forces is receiving a rather mellow reaction from the governments of the larger countries. Time and time again, the world has continued to fail to take action when it comes to Palestine. By failing to act now, we not only fail a group of people, but entire humankind.

The Maldives expresses its strong support to the immediate dispatching of an independent, international commission of inquiry to investigate the gross violations of international human rights and humanitarian law by Israel in Palestine. The Maldives calls upon the international community to place all its efforts in facilitating a long term resolution to the conflict. We welcome Security Council's call for the de-escalation of violence, restoration of calm and restitution of the November 2012 ceasefire. We believe that a peaceful solution can only be negotiated if the international community puts the issue at the forefront of its agenda.

Mr. President,

We all know that Israel is deliberately targeting hospitals that treat the wounded. Israel attacks the ambulances and medical workers. The international humanitarian agencies should be given unfettered access to Gaza to provide emergency humanitarian assistance, including food, water, and medicine.

Mr President,

The Maldives empathises with the suffering that our Palestinian brothers and sisters are enduring during this holy month of Ramadan. We pray for their safety. We hope that this Council could reach a decision in stopping the Israeli aggression. We hope that the Council could facilitate a lasting and a durable solution to this decades long conflict in the region. And we believe that enduring peace would return to the Holy land.

Thank you, Mr President.

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