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

Statement to be delivered by Mr. Muruthala Moosa, Third Secretary on Agenda Item 7:

**Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the
Occupied Palestinian Territories**

At the 23rd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Monday, 10 June 2013

Thank you Mr. President,

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

We welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and recommendations contained therein.

The Maldives condemns the continued violations of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and reiterates its call for Israel to comply with its obligations under international law and to immediately halt all human rights violations. We call upon Israel to cooperate with UN human rights mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur and to grant him access to all parts of OPT.

Mr. President,

Perhaps the most dangerous violation of human rights in the OPT with longer-term effects on the most fundamental of all human rights – self determination, is the “creeping annexation” of Palestinian territories through a systematic process of illegal settlements, as highlighted in the report.

The Special Rapporteur also presents the grim picture of human rights situation in Gaza strip, particularly because of the blockade of Gaza and in relation to the Operation Pillar of Defence by Israeli troops during November 2012.

Mr. President,

The Maldives also appreciates the Special Rapporteur's particular attention to the plight of 4800 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli custody. We are extremely concerned about the continued reports of detention of prisoners without charge through the illegal notion of administrative detention, and also on the widespread use of torture and solitary confinements among many other practices.

In conclusion, the Maldives calls upon Israel, the international community and other relevant actors to consider the Special Rapporteur's recommendations seriously and to implement them.

I thank you.
