

7. Agenda Item 7 General Debate

**27th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council
Geneva, 8-26 September 2014**

**Agenda Item 7: General Debate – Human Rights Situation in Palestine
and Other Occupied Arab Territories
22 September 2014**

**Statement by
Ms. Rishfa Rasheed
First Secretary / Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Maldives to the United Nations Offices at Geneva**

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Thank you Mr. President,

The Maldives once again strongly condemns the atrocious violations of human rights that are continuing in the Palestinian Territories including East Jerusalem, which are illegally occupied by Israel.

Mr. President,

Israel has systematically violated almost all the human rights that are guaranteed under international human rights instruments and peremptory norms, including the right to self-determination. The conflict that arose from the assault on Palestine's territorial integrity in 1967 has now evolved into a tragic humanitarian crisis. The Maldives remains deeply concerned by the lack of assertive action from the international community to preserve the rights of nations and people. It has set a dangerous precedent, which may have contributed to the further territorial conflicts and human rights violations that have compromised international order and border security today.

In addition to widespread international consensus, the UN Security Council has established that Palestinians do have the right to an independent and sovereign state. Therefore, we repeatedly call upon Israel to cease illegal settlement, lift the blockade of Gaza, dismantle the separation wall and stop redefining national borders with brute force. The Maldives also supports Palestine in seeking full membership of the United Nations, and advocates Palestine's membership in other international organizations as well.

Mr. President,

Human rights are indivisible, inalienable rights that all human beings are entitled to. Therefore, even though Palestinian people's nationality may be denied by some states, there is no room to deny their status as human beings. There is no justification for the complete disregard for human life and outright massacre of innocent civilians including women, children and infants in Palestine by the Israel Forces. The Palestine people are subjected to blatant violations of human rights by the Israel forces on a daily basis.

The Maldives appreciates the efforts by this esteem council to address these issues. We also welcome the decision by this council in July to dispatch an Independent International Commission of Inquiry to investigate the gross violations of international human rights Committed by Israel in Palestine. Such action has been long overdue, and we believe that more assertive actions need to be taken by the international community to hold Israel accountable for their crimes against humanity. We also call upon Israel to extend full cooperation and unhindered access to the Commission and to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Palestine to carry out their duties.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, we reiterate our call to Israel to immediately cease all further human rights violations, subside illegal settlement and resume peaceful negotiations to resolve this conflict without further bloodshed. As we mark the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, the Government of Maldives once again reaffirm the steadfast solidarity of the Maldives with the Palestinian people and the Palestinian cause. We hope that this crisis that has stretched across almost half a century comes to a peaceful and lasting resolution.