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Human Rights Council
Tenth Session

Item 6
"Consideration of UPR reports"

Oral Intervention by Amnesty International on Israel

Mr President,

Many of the recommendations made during the review of Israel in the UPR Working Group address concerns which are shared by Amnesty International.

Although the UPR examination is the most detailed dialogue that this Council has seen in connection with human rights in Israel and the Occupied Territories (OPT), Amnesty International would have welcomed a more direct approach to many of the issues raised. On the following issues, touched on in the review, we would have preferred to see the following recommendations made to Israel:

1. Recognize the applicability to the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) of its responsibility under international human rights and humanitarian law and to investigate war crimes and other violations of international law, including those perpetrated in the recent military offensive in the Gaza Strip, hold the perpetrators accountable and provide reparation to the victims.
2. Lift the blockade of the Gaza Strip and allow the unhindered passage of people and goods,¹ including much needed humanitarian aid and material for the reconstruction of homes and infrastructure destroyed in the recent conflict.
3. Halt the expansion of Israeli settlements, the destruction of Palestinian homes and the construction of the fence/wall in the West Bank, including in East Jerusalem, and remove the more than 500 checkpoints and barriers which impede the movement of Palestinians within the West Bank.
4. Reverse policies and practices which undermine the rights to health, education, housing, work and an adequate standard of living for Palestinians in the OPT, as well as for minorities in Israel, including the Bedouin communities living in the unrecognized villages in the Negev region.
5. Cease the use of torture or other ill-treatment of detainees and ensure due process for Palestinian detainees and for asylum-seekers, migrants and trafficked persons

¹ A/HRC/10/76, paragraph 100, sub-paragraphs 38, 42, 46 and 47.

6. Allow the resumption of family visits for some 900 Palestinian detainees from Gaza who are held in Israeli prisons and who have been denied family visits since June 2007.
7. Stop imprisoning Israeli conscientious objectors who refuse to serve in the army for reasons of conscience.

Many of the recommendations made during the UPR examination have taken on an additional urgency in the wake of the recent conflict in the Gaza Strip, during which Israeli forces killed hundreds of Palestinian children and other unarmed civilians and destroyed thousands of Palestinian homes and property, and Palestinian gunmen killed three Israeli civilians and six soldiers.