

20 January 2009

**Statement of Algeria, Ambassador Mr. Idriss Jazaïry, in his national capacity
Informal Transcript**

Thank you Mr. President.

I am speaking in my national capacity to say how deeply shocked I was by the callous statement made by the representative of Israel. He said that the threats of armed transfers to terrorism remain the main lesson to be drawn from what we have been witnessing in Gaza.

Is the issue really today to prevent militants from Palestine from resorting to rudimentary weapons to resist the oppression of occupation forces? To prevent those that have been opposing a callous blockade for 18 months depriving 1.5 million people of food and medicine? Or is it about those that have been resorting recently to the most modern and efficient killing machine to kill fourteen hundred or more civilians and wound five thousand others, a third of them children and women?

Is the problem today that the conference was mute about the suffering of the inhabitants of Southern Israel of whom at least I think four or five civilians were killed by rockets? One life is priceless I admit, but is this a problem or is the problem those of 1400 innocent people killed and 5000 other wounded that the distinguish representative of Indonesia referred to this proportion in force. And I think that this would be an understatement at least.

It seems to me if there is a lesson to be drawn from the tragedy that we have witnessed in Gaza, it is that if you want a international force it is not just prevent the trading of a few old weapons it is to protect the lives of 1.5 million civilians that are only given one choice now, to die in silence, because if they resist their killings they are called terrorists.

No mister President the challenge today is to look at the Middle East as the way we would like to see it. As an area free from nuclear weapons. An area were you do not condone one non NPT power that holds nuclear weapons and you claim that another that is a member of NPT is the villain.

Thank you Mister President.