



12th Human Rights Council special session
"The human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and East Jerusalem"

Oral statement
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom:

Thank you, Chairperson.

From all the reports we receive from the Occupied Palestinian Territories and from what we read, see and hear in the media, the human rights situation in the West Bank and the Gaza strip and at this time particularly in East Jerusalem is tragic and worsening daily.

We are glad that this Special Session has been convened and trust that it will stop the deterioration of the current situation. We trust that the Council will respond by taking the necessary steps that will halt the violations that are being committed against the Palestinian people and lead toward the fulfillment of their legitimate right to establish their own independent state alongside Israel, with both people living in dignity and peace.

We call on all members of this Council and on all other UN member states to exercise the necessary political will to achieve a comprehensive peace based on the vision of a region where two democratic States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side. How much longer can the international community look on and hope for peace in the Middle East while the Palestinian people – women, men and children – lose their homes, their land, their livelihood, and their hope for a future.

Yesterday's Security Council discussion focused on the road towards a just and long lasting peace in the Middle East, noting the Report of the Fact Finding Mission. We strongly urge you to see this report as a peace building instrument and call on you to endorse *all* the recommendations contained in it, and take the necessary steps to ensure its speedy implementation.

We strongly call on this Council to see Security Council Resolution 1325 as essential in any peace process. Women are crucial peace actors with knowledge and experience and should always be included in all decision-making levels of the peace process.

Everything must be done to resolve the conflict. The road map to peace was defined decades ago by UN brokered resolutions. The Goldstone report provides some of the bricks to build that road. We are among the more than a hundred non-governmental organizations, which signed an appeal to this Council to endorse the Goldstone Report and act on its recommendations.

Thank you, Chairperson.