

World Federation of United Nations Associations

Speaker: omah Leila Enayati

Oral Statement under Item 6
Universal Periodic Review (Israel)

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Mr. President,

I am speaking on behalf of the United Nations Association of Iran which is a member of the World Federation of United Nations Associations. First of all I would like to thank the Council for establishing the Universal Periodic Review.

One of the most blatant examples of human rights violations is the continued neglect of the rights of civilians, women and children in particular, during armed conflict. Exactly what the whole world witnessed took place in the Gaza Strip in other words.

During the Israeli military aggression in the Gaza Strip forty percent of the dead were women and children under eighteen.

In violation of the Geneva Four Conventions, Israel used white phosphorus bombs even in civilian populated areas. Israel destroyed the water, food, medicine and hygiene facilities and infrastructures during its military onslaught. Schools, hospitals and dozens of other civilian buildings were destroyed. Even the UN aid compound was not left out in the indiscriminate brutal attacks.

Israel clearly violated all human, humanitarian rights and international law treaties and instruments. Even resolutions were issued by the international community through the United Nations, but they were all to no avail.

Mr. President,

Children in Gaza are today facing health epidemics, the world health organization has warned. Polio, measles and hepatitis are threatening trapped Palestinian children because doctors had to stop vaccinating them. WHO was in the midst of a mass vaccination program when the bombing began on December 27th. Now, inevitably as an added result a health crisis will likely explode.

Psychologists say Israel's three-week offensive inflicted even more severe trauma than previous conflict in GAZA because civilians in the crowded territory had no safe place to run. The emotional and psychological effects of these all too recent event on an entire generation of children will be beyond severe.

Mr. President,

I would like to ask the special rapporteur, government and NGOs representatives present here to answer this question for me what would it be like to lose a child of my own?

Thank you