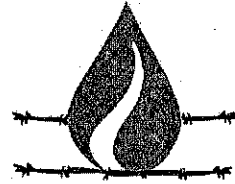


Maryam Erzi

(13) (44)



Organization for Defending
Victims of Violence

Item 7 : General Debate

Organization for Defending Victims of Violence

Mr. President,

We all know that the ultimate goal of the laws of war is to protect every single individual in the times of conflict. If the goal is ever achieved, that means no one can be outside of the protection of the law.

According to the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, Israel has committed war crimes in Gaza. It is deeply alarming that the international response so clearly falls short of what is needed to end the conflict in Palestine. The same conclusion was reached after the recent 183-page report of the United Nation Human Rights Council on the 50-day Gaza war.

The report suggested that Israel's overall military policy during the conflict may have "violate[d] the laws of war." In particular, it bemoaned the lack of accountability on the part of Israeli officials conducting the war and expressed dismay that Israel did not alter its strategy of airstrikes even after it became clear that many civilians were dying.

Mr. President,

US was the only country in the world to oppose a resolution accepted by 41 countries, adopted in July 2015, calling for Israel to be held accountable for war crimes. US was the only country to vote against the UN resolution, adopted in 2015, condemning Israel operations in Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), while it was accepted by 29 other countries.

It is shameful that even the basic demand for full humanitarian access has not been met. UN resolutions are being ignored and war crimes are being committed on a daily basis .

Accordingly, ODVV urges the US and all the governments around the world to put aside their disagreements and mount a new attempt to solve the conflict politically.