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HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN PALESTINE AND OTHER OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES

**Written statement* submitted by Organization for Defending Victims of Violence
(ODVV), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is
circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[18 February 2008]

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- This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the
submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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In an age in which the world speaks of human rights, we are witness to daily increasing crimes being committed against the defenseless people, hungry children and ill women of Palestine.

The sounds of gunfire and explosion are heard in Gaza every day and the air is filled with the smell of gun smoke and blood. For what crime should the approximately 1.5 million population of Palestine, half of which are children, in this age of the blooming of science and culture, be punished? The only crime of the prisoners in this big prison is supporting their own democratically elected government, and the resistance of the young people against the military aggression of Israel.

The Palestinian-Israeli issue is not something new. From childhood, today's elderly Palestinian men and women have experienced struggle, poverty, hunger, martyred and homelessness. These suffering people, have taught their children the eternal secret of living and the epic struggle against the Israeli Occupying Regime's aggression. And so this struggle and resistance has been continuing for over half a century. Experience has shown that the Palestinian people's struggle is endless, and it is impossible to defeat these people. Therefore a solution must be found.

1.5 prisoners in Gaza are having problems getting the fuel, electricity, food and medicines that they need. Israel's policy in collective punishment of the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, is in retaliation to Palestinian resistance fighters reactions to Israeli military attacks, and this action of the Israeli government is illogical, undemocratic and a violation of human rights.

By adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights have all stressed on human dignity and declared their shunning of discrimination, cruelty, inhuman treatment or behaviour, injustice and human rights violations. In the Geneva and the Hague Conventions have restricted wars and WMD. The international community too in expressing sympathy for the Palestinian people has tried hard to find a solution to this crisis by issuing statements and resolutions that are not enforceable.

Israel's efforts to portray the incapability of the Palestinian democratically elected government, and escalating the differences between Palestinian factions, and or supporting one group, alongside actions such as constructing settlements in East Jerusalem and destruction of holy Islamic buildings, have all shown the regime to be a dictatorial, aggressive regime that to-date has completely ignored all international recommendations, warnings and resolutions, heads of states, organizations and institutions, and continues unabated to oppress the Palestinian people. All this is indicate of the international community's measures not being enough to prevent crimes from being committed against the Palestinian people.

The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence alongside other NGOs condemns the human rights violating Israeli regime, and alls upon the international community to make a determined and effective confrontation against Israel at the international level.

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