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**Written statement* submitted by the 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.

[27 February 2007]

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

Right to self-determination of the Palestinian people

The right to self determination for an individual or a society is one of the most natural of rights; and the Palestinian people's fight to retake their occupied territories and the right to determine their destiny is something that the people of the world – Muslim nations in particular – have been fully aware of for years.

Finally after approximately half a century the popular Palestinian movements and resistance, the right for self-rule and the formation of a Palestinian government was finally realised. This was accomplished through a series of intense talks and meetings, and was based on lessening the tone regarding the original position which was the continuation of the struggle until the destruction of the State of Israel.

Although the formation of a Palestinian government under the watchful eyes of Israel is not an ideal and final option for the Palestinians, but the formation of the government however is a valuable opportunity which sadly different Palestinian groups and factions have not paid attention to, and have not made use of the positive aspects of this opportunity.

For over a year now, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict regarding Palestinians right to self rule has turned into a Palestinian-Palestinian conflict, and by staying out of this, not only hasn't the Israeli government offered any help in resolving the conflict, but by enticing the Palestinian factions, it adds fuel to the fire of the conflict. The Palestinian authorities' refusal to accept the Palestinian government that was democratically elected by a majority vote of the people, and the support for one faction in the government, as well as the restrictions on the authority of the Palestinian government, have all added to the existing problems in Palestine.

The international community's expectations from Israel is for her to completely recognise the Palestinians right to autonomy, and similarly the recognition of the Palestinian government. This requires practical support for Palestinian government programmes and respecting the rights of the Palestinian people. Also the provision of security and facilitation of political and economic relations between the Palestinian government with the international system is something that the international community wants from Israel.

As a civil society organization, the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) stresses on the rights of the Palestinian people to elect and form their own government, and for the international community to support the elected government, and once again calls upon the Israeli government to recognise the right of the Palestinians to self-determination.

Palestinian mothers must one day be hopeful for their children's future, without fear and concern, and Palestinian children must grow up in complete security. In the hope for that day...
