

AS DELIVERED

**PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO THE UN, GENEVA**

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**14<sup>TH</sup> SESSION (31 May – 18 June 2010)**

**AGENDA ITEM 1: Urgent Debate on Raid on Flotilla by  
Israeli Defence Forces  
(1 June 2010)**

**Statement by India**

Mr. President,

We deplore the tragic loss of life and injuries caused by the violent action yesterday on ships in international waters carrying humanitarian aid for Gaza. We condemn such indiscriminate use of force and believe that there can be no justification for it.

2. We remain deeply concerned at such incidents, as also at the violence in the region, which have the effect of serving as avoidable obstacles to the peace process as well as to the realization of the legitimate aspirations of both the peoples to co-exist in peace and security. At this hour of grief, we extend our sympathies to the families of the dead and wounded. We urge both sides to work to defuse the situation and request Israel to investigate the incident and cooperate with the international community. We also urge Israel to lift the blockade against Gaza and permit access for humanitarian supplies in order to alleviate the sufferings of the population of Gaza. It is our firm conviction that lasting peace and security in the region can be achieved only through peaceful dialogue and not through use of force.

3. Mr President, India's deep association with, and continuing commitment to, Palestine is rooted in our struggle for independence. India believes that the solution to the Palestine issue should be based on the relevant UN Resolutions, the Arab Peace Plan and the Quartet Roadmap resulting in a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine living within secure and recognized borders, side by side at peace with Israel.

Thank you, Mr President.

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