

(iv) **THE FOURTH GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, 23 JUNE 2001 AT 10.00 A.M.**

(Dr. P.S.Rao President in the Chair)

The Meeting took up for consideration the item **“Establishment of Co-operation Against Trafficking in Women and Children”**

1. The **President** called upon the Secretary General to introduce the topic.

2. The **Secretary General** while introducing the item “Establishing Co-operation Against Trafficking in Women and Children”, said that the item had been proposed by Government of Indonesia, as an additional item for the Fortieth Session. In the explanatory note it had been made clear that this would enable the countries in the region to deliberate on the topic and such an exercise would be useful for establishing cooperation in the Asian and African region against trafficking in women and children. Following Rule 11(2) of the AALCO Statutory Rules, the item proposed by Indonesia had been included in the Agenda of the 40th Session as an “additional item”. He stated that trafficking in women and children for purposes of sexual slavery was a flagrant human rights violation occurring worldwide, and had been condemned by the United Nations and other international and regional groups as well as many domestic legislative efforts.

The factors facilitating trafficking were globalization, poverty and lack of attention, he said. He stated that although trafficking in persons was being addressed in a number of different fora and include discrimination against women, violence against women, contemporary forms of slavery, violence against women migrant workers, labour rights for migrants, women and children, and most recently transnational organised crime and despite several conventions, protocols and resolutions reproving trafficking and the factors that facilitate it, the trade continues to flourish.

He further stated that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime was adopted by the General Assembly at its Millennium Meeting in November 2000 and must be ratified by 40 countries before it comes into force. Providing statistics he said that 124 countries had signed the treaty, with a close to 80 of them signing the treaty and its two accompanying protocols, one to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children and other against the smuggling of migrants by land, sea and air.

He added that what was required at this juncture as mentioned in the explanatory note of Government of Indonesia was the signing of the UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocols, its speedy ratification and effective domestic implementation.

3. The **Delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran** thanked the Government of Indonesia for its proposal to include an additional agenda on “Establishing co-operation against Trafficking in Women and Children”. He said it is an important item that has received international attention

and response. He gave a succinct account of the various international human rights instruments which explicitly prohibit trafficking of peoples. He added that the issues of trafficking had been addressed in numerous regional and international fora. The legal basis and mechanisms to deal with the issue of trafficking are indicative of the resolve and determination of the international community to tackle the problem. He noted that the Note prepared by the Secretariat on this matter is a useful and informative document.

While referring to the newly adopted Protocol against Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children, he said that the Protocol represents a new approach to the problem in several respects. It attempts to define “trafficking in persons”, specially with the involvement of transnational organised criminal groups, and is the first attempt to address the problem in a comprehensive manner. It combines traditional crime control measures to investigate, prosecute and punish offenders with measures to protect trafficked persons. Its balanced approach would assure progress in the development of an international legal instrument, whereas previous attempts to deal with the matter from one single perspective did not meet success.

He was of the view that the problem of trafficking especially in women and children must be addressed at several levels, and that crime prevention, and victim-support measures must all be important parts of the solution. He was confident that the AALCO is indeed in a position to take stock of the rich legal background that existed in this field as well as to utilize the experiences of its members in their fight against trafficking in women and children.

4. **The Delegate of Nigeria** informed the meeting that his country was facing an unprecedented explosion in human trafficking particularly women and children. This he said was a growing phenomenon in the west African sub-region. The victims were being smuggled in an inhuman manner by organised crime groups usually based outside the region but assisted by local crime groups, and were forced into the commercial sex trade and made to live in sub-human conditions. He said that the development was of grave concern to the Government of Nigeria. Some states had taken varying actions to deal with the problem. For instance, Edo State has passed a law against the procurement of women for immoral purposes abroad. The law provides stiff penalties for offenders. Consequently a number of NGO's had emerged to help in arresting the trend and enhance social ability to deal with the after-math.

Furthermore as part of efforts to combat the heinous crime of human trafficking and associated crimes, the Federal Government of Nigeria established the Roundtable on Transnational organised crimes. The aim is to improve governments' response against organised crimes and their perpetrators, and it would also expedite the investigation and prosecution of persons arrested for offences such as Advance Fee Fraud, smuggling of persons, drug trafficking and money laundering.

He stated that his government had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Child, and was signatory to the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime, which demonstrated their commitment to eradicate transnational organised crime. He reaffirmed the support of his government for the position of the international community under Articles 4-6 and Articles 7-11 of the UN Convention Against Transnational Crime. Under those articles, States are required to take steps to protect and assist trafficked persons, and are required to exchange

information about the offenders and co-operate in the training of personnel involved in fighting human trafficking.

He suggested that the AALCO continue to sensitize international public opinion on the evil of trafficking in women and children which is a modern form of slave trade.

5. The **Delegate of Nepal** appreciated the proposal of the Government of Indonesia for the inclusion of the item on the agenda of the AALCO. He said as in Indonesia, Nepal also has a large number of trafficked women and children. He fully supported the views put forward by the Government of Indonesia for establishing international co-operation in sharing information and combating this serious crime, since it was not possible to combat and control merely by the effort of one or two countries.

Informing about the initiative of the SAARC nations he said, they had negotiated a Regional Convention in this regard to be adopted by its summit session. He suggested that the Secretariat of the AALCO could look at it and recommend it to its member countries accordingly. He appreciated the document prepared by the Secretariat and informed that His Majesty's Government of Nepal was considering the possibility of becoming party to the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime.

6. The **Delegate of Sri Lanka** said that the issue of trafficking in women and children was an issue of great concern to her country. She stated that trafficking in human beings is a violation of their human rights and therefore requires the attention of all governments as well as international and regional bodies. While referring to the Preamble of the SAARC Draft Convention, she said, that trafficking was incompatible with the dignity and honour of human beings and is a violation of their basic human rights. She emphasized that there was need to strengthen inter-country co-operation in providing assistance, rehabilitation and repatriation to victims of trafficking. While admitting the fact that prevailing legislation in most countries are not adequate for combating this problem, she said there is need for law reform in this area and all domestic laws should adhere to international standards. She also emphasized that there was a need for co-operation, consensus and mutual assistance among countries of the region in the area re-integrating, extradition agreements, documentation, research for net working.

She welcomed the initiative to establish cooperation among Member States of AALCO to prevent trafficking in women and children and for the preparation of a model legislation. She proposed that issues relating to a) role of law enforcement in trafficking in women and children; b) prosecutorial strategies; c) intelligence sharing and d) effective resources utilization should be discussed not subsequent to the preparation of model legislation but simultaneously since such issues are of paramount importance to the eradication of this crime.

7. The **Delegate of Indonesia** thanked the Secretary General for having incorporated the item, relating to "Establishing Co-operation against Trafficking in Women and Children" on the agenda of this session. She said the topic was important keeping in view the rapid growth in the flow of people, and goods as a result of globalization which has brought about dramatic changes in coping with criminality. Transnational crime, she said was truly international in nature, and

has increasingly become a global concern. Countries in Asia and Africa are not immune from the menace, thus to prevent and combat that problem effectively, co-operation among countries in the Asian African region is needed. She then enumerated the concerns of her Government.

She urged the countries, who had not yet signed, the Protocol to Prevent Trafficking in Women and Children, to consider signing it. The Government of Indonesia, has signed this Protocol expecting that the countries, who had already signed the Protocol to prevent trafficking in women and children to consider ratifying it, pursuant to their law and legislation. Indonesia was in the process of ratifying the Protocol. Expecting the countries to implement the Protocol immediately, She pointed out significant issues such as: (i) the role of law enforcement in the trafficking in women and children cases; (ii) prosecutorial strategies; (iii) the formulation of a model legislation; (iv) intelligence sharing; and (v) effective measures utilization and initiatives.

8. **The Delegate of Thailand** said that his country was one of the 22 AALCO Member States that have signed the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocol Relating to Trafficking in Persons particularly women and children. He said that such crimes needed strenuous enforcement measures and would fall under the category of “slavery” which should be considered under the Statute of the International Criminal Court. He felt a need for international co-operation and exchange of intelligence sharing as well as extradition or prosecution.

9. **The Delegate of the Republic of India** presented the initiatives launched in India to combat the menace of trafficking in women and children. The Supreme Court of India has been proactive in this regard, and through orders made on public interest petitions in the years 1990 and 1997 the Court directed the Executive to formulate a comprehensive programme on addressing trafficking related issues. Accordingly the Union Government in 1998 prepared a comprehensive Plan of Action. This Plan of action directs the State Governments to undertake actions relating to prevention of trafficking; providing health, education and housing facilities to victims of trafficking; undertake suitable legal reform; ensure rescue and rehabilitation; and for monitoring and reporting on the progress made to the Central Government. The Government of India also undertakes periodical review of the Comprehensive Plan of Action. Other aspects of the presentation can be summarily stated as follows:-

- (a) The Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, is currently reviewed by the Government of India to effect suitable amendments. Besides enhancing the punishment for trafficking, it is also proposed to delete the provision conferring discretionary powers permitting prosecution of women for ‘soliciting’. It is also proposed to involve non-governmental organizations (NGO’s) in assisting the police.
- (b) Creation of a special cell within the police force to combat trafficking is under active consideration.
- (c) Delegation supported the Protocol to Prevent Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children and expressed the hope that the SAARC Convention on the same topic could be finalized at the earliest;

- (d) Stressing the need to sensitize the police, judiciary and other relevant authorities to the special problems of trafficking, the Delegate said her country was currently drafting reports and manuals with the assistance of UNESCO for wider dissemination of information relating to trafficking;
- (e) The Government of India had under various rehabilitation schemes established 'short-stay' homes for women victims of trafficking.

Highlighting the advantages of a 'preventive' approach, the Delegate called for focusing the efforts at the grass root level, that would include schemes for education, health, developing skills towards self-sustaining employment etc. While pointing out that adequate legislative measures exists, it was the implementation aspects of combating trafficking which needs to be pursued vigorously.

10. **The Delegate of the People's Republic of China** stated that his Government was consistently taking steps to combat the crimes infringing the rights of women and children, such as trafficking in persons. His government, with the co-operation of NGOs and elements of civil society has taken various measures to prevent and suppress the crime of trafficking.

The Delegate stated that China was a party to both the Convention on All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. He also drew attention to the active role his government had played in the negotiation and drafting of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crimes and its two protocols. Having signed the Convention on December 12, 2000, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has already begun the ratification process.

11. **The Delegate of Ghana** thanked Indonesia for its initiative to place this important topic as an additional item on the agenda of AALCO. She also thanked the Indian Delegate, Ms. Veena Rao, for her comprehensive expose on this subject. She underscored the need to focus the liability of both the victims of the practice of trafficking of women and children as well as that of organized criminal traffickers. The Delegate pointed out that in some cases the victims of this criminal practice themselves consciously consented to this criminal practice, not having foreseen the gravity of what is in store for them. But where it can be established that an adult women victim had consented to be trafficked, then she has to be made equally culpable as the traffickers. Turning to the case of children, the Delegate stated that as they are unable to legally grant consent, however, in a lot of cases their circumstances are traceable to willing and condoning adults who ought to be liable.

While many countries sign various international agreements and conventions, the Delegate felt that the purpose would be served only if the conventions are ratified and suitable enabling legislation adopted. Ghana, she informed, was one of the first countries to sign and ratify the Convention on the Rights of the child, in pursuance of which a Children's Act was passed in 1998 to promote and protect children's rights in maintenance, adoption, employment etc.

In Ghana, she stated, there are institutions such as the National Council on Women and Development, the National Commission on Children, the Federation of International Women Lawyers (FIDA) and NGO's like the 31st December Women's Movement. However, notwithstanding the endeavours of these institutions there had been very little impact on the ground. In her view it was therefore very important that Member States of AALCO should seriously embark on an intensive educational programme in addition to providing jobs for the rural people, who are easy prey to this evil practice, with a view to preventing, rather than curing it.

12. **The Delegate of Malaysia** thanked the Government of Indonesia and the Secretariat for their joint efforts in including the topic in the agenda, a matter which seeks to promote and uphold the dignity of women and children. In its paper entitled "Establishing Co-operation Against Trafficking in Women and Children", the Secretariat on commenting on the existing legal framework for the protection in women and children, inter alia, referred to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). As has been noted, Article 6 and Articles 33 and 34 of CEDAW and CRC respectively provide for matters pertaining to the suppression of exploitation of women and children.

In fulfillment of its obligations under both CEDAW and CRC, domestic legislation are in place in various legislations like the Penal Code, the Women and Girls Protection Act of 1973, Domestic Violence Act 1984, Guardianship of Infants Act 1961, Married Women Act 1957, Married Women and Children Maintenance Act 1950 and the Child Act of 2001.

The laws on illegal trafficking of women and children are contained in the Penal Code, Women and Girls Protection Act 1973, the Child Protection Act 1991 and the Immigration Act 1959/63.

In its paper and as highlighted by the Secretary-General in his presentation, it is noted that the Secretariat has proposed the early ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) and the Protocol to Prevent and Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Child.

Malaysia recognizes the importance of the need to improve co-operation in the area of extradition, mutual assistance in criminal matters and joint investigation under UNTOC. Hence to this end, she stated that Malaysia is currently studying the provisions of the two instruments prior to making any commitment to be a party. With regard to the proposal for the formulation of a model legislation it is a matter which can be considered to facilitate jurisdictions which do not have the appropriate legislations in place.

13. **The Delegate of Bangladesh** stated that the topic of "trafficking" was a timely one requiring urgent and serious attention by States. He pointed out that the whole chain of events in an act of trafficking, could involve organized transnational elements operating within the gaps and loopholes in the existing legal system. Bangladesh, the Delegate stated, has been a victim of trafficking and establishing legal framework to combat the menace was an issue of top priority. Towards this end, he outlined steps to be taken at three levels:-

National level: Focus in this area should be to reduce the push factors, create awareness among public as to the magnitude of the problem, enact national legislation prescribing exemplary punishment to discourage potential traffickers.

Regional level: Chalk out common strategy on the basis of an agreed upon legal regime to curb cross-border trafficking; and exchange of information.

International level: Developing international legal instruments.

He also emphasized the utility of devising rehabilitation measures to address the plight of victims of trafficking.

14. The **Representative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)** briefed the Committee on the activities of the Office in addressing trafficking issues. Since 1998 OHCHR has been actively involved in the problem of trafficking. Currently OHCHR action in the area proceeds on two fronts:-

- a) The Office continues to enhance the quality of its support to the relevant UN mechanisms dealing with trafficking and related exploitation.
- b) On a second front, OHCHR has developed a specific anti-trafficking programme.

The OHCHR Anti-Trafficking Programme was established in March 1999. Its objective is to work towards the integration of a human rights perspective into international, regional and national anti-trafficking initiatives.

As regards the Asian region the OHCHR is working with individual governments to assist them in developing and implementing a human rights approach to trafficking and related exploitation. In Nepal for example, OHCHR is closely involved in comprehensive UN –system wide project which seeks to address the problem of trafficking of Nepalese women and girls.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights has followed closely the development of a draft SAARC Convention against Trafficking in women and girls and has communicated her views on the draft convention to the SAARC Heads of Government.

15. The Meeting then took up the item **“Deportation of Palestinians and other Israeli Practices among them the Massive Immigration and Settlement of Jews in All Occupied Territories in Violation of International Law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949”**.

16. **The President** called upon the Deputy Secretary General Dr.Ahmed J.Al-Gaa'tri to make his statement.

17. **The Deputy Secretary General, Dr. Ahmed Jassim Al-Gaa'tri** introduced the item **“Deportation of Palestinians and other Israeli Practices among them the massive Immigration**

and Settlement of Jews in All occupied territories in Violation of International Law particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949”, and referred to the document No.AALCC/XL/HQ New Delhi/2001/S-4.

He recalled that the item was first placed on the work programme of the Secretariat of the Committee at its 27th Session (Singapore, 1988) following a reference made by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Since then it continues to be on the agenda at the successive annual sessions. Keeping the relevance of the topic in mind two changes have been made in the title of the topic which have increased the scope of this study. The first change was made at the 37th session which was held in New Delhi, after extensive deliberations at that session it was decided that the scope of the topic be widened to include “other Israeli practices” and during the 39th session held in Cairo it was decided that the word “all” should be placed before “occupied territories”. The item thus expanded reads “Deportation of Palestinians and other Israeli Practices among them the massive Immigration and Settlement of Jews in occupied territories in violation of International Law particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949”. At the 39th session it was decided that in view of the importance of the subject, the Secretariat should continue to monitor the latest developments, and the item was placed on the agenda of the 40th session. Pursuant to resolution 39/3 adopted at the Cairo Session the AALCC Secretariat monitored legal developments including Israeli Practices in all Arab Occupied Territories.

He said alike the past few years, the year 2000 and a few months of 2001 have witnessed many important regional and international meetings which aimed at saving the peace process, and enhancing the applicability of the rule of law and implementation of agreements between the parties concerned.

The tremendous diplomatic efforts put in by world leaders had kindled hopes of a peaceful end to a century of belligerence and of a peaceful settlement in the Middle East, but unfortunately despite positive developments in various international fora and the tireless efforts put in by the most prominent leaders of the world it did not yield the desired result of bringing just comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East.

He noted that many international meetings including the (i) 10th emergency Special Session of the UN General Assembly (ii) Extraordinary Arab Summit conference; (iii) Report of the High Commissioner on human Rights and many others concluded that:

Israel, the occupying power, has continuously committed, *inter alia* the following acts against the Palestinian people:

- (i) The wilful killing of Palestinian civilians, using different methods, including by use of sharpshooters, even when soldiers of the occupying power were not in any way subject to life threatening situations;
- (ii) Bombing and shelling of populated Palestinian areas of buildings belonging to the Palestinian Authority using helicopter gunships, tanks and other heavy weaponry;

- (iii) Ruining agricultural fields and orchards and destroying industrial and economic facilities;
- (iv) Imposing severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods with the outside world and within the occupied Palestinian territory, sometimes even to the level of restrictions on cities and villages. This has also included, in many cases, restrictions on the movement of medical personnel in emergency situations and the delivery of necessary supplies; and
- (v) A vast number of other forms of collective punishment and harassment of Palestinian civilians, such as unlawful confinement on the Palestinian inhabitants of Al-Khalil.

He added that the recent escalation of violence in the region, including the killing of innocent victims specially children and infants are the most reprehensible acts, which need to be condemned by one and all. By now it is also very clear that that whatever means are to be adopted to arrive at a formula for peace, must be preceded urgently to stop the ever escalating cycle of violence in the region.

He further added that the most recent international effort "the Mitchell Commissions report" of 21st May 2001 has again brought forward the strong connection between the settlements and continuing violence. It has urged both the parties for a complete cease fire to be followed by a complete freeze on further settlement building, including construction in existing settlements.

He stated that many of these actions by the occupying power represent grave breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and some represent war crimes within the meaning of the Convention. They represent serious violations of other instruments of international law as well as many Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. The actions of the occupying power have caused grave loss of life, severe destruction of property and have greatly damaged the socio-economic living conditions of the Palestinian people.

He said, unfortunately, keeping in mind all the above stated violations of the occupying power, the landscape of the Palestinian – Israeli track of the middle east peace process does not appear to be promising. The Israelis continue to ignore the international appeals from different fora to try to work for actual peace.

He reiterated that there is urgent necessity for commitment to the principle of “land for peace” and the implementation in letter and spirit of all Security Council resolutions mainly 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 425(1975) which form the basis of the Middle East Peace Process, and the need for immediate and unfailing implementation of the agreements reached between the parties.

He believed that continued commitment from the international community would ensure the success of the Middle East Peace process for the sake of the region as a whole, and for that it is of utmost importance that we adhere to the goal “land for peace, and peace for development

and development for a better future. But at present it seems that those who are to be blamed, are those who invent multi ways to violate international human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Deputy Secretary General reaffirmed that the international community as well as the AALCO is supportive of the Palestinian determination to uphold the rule of law and relevant UN resolutions as the main terms of reference concerning the Israeli Occupation in protection of the rights of the Palestinian people. It also reaffirms the established international consensus on the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to all the occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, as well as other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967. The time has now come when intention and determination is required from the parties to end this conflict and bring back peace for the present and future generations.

18. **The Delegate of the State of Palestine** thanked the President and his Bureau for placing the item for consideration on the agenda of the Fortieth Session of the Organization . He also expressed his appreciation to the Secretary General and his staff for preparing an excellent background document for discussion. Further, he added that the Deputy Secretary General had made a very comprehensive presentation on the item. He also expressed his appreciation to AALCO who along with other international and non-governmental organizations continued to give priority to the consideration of this item on an annual basis.

Recalling numerous General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on the topic, the Delegate called for a just, durable and lasting peace in the region. The numerous land for peace agreement accords signed and the prevailing international law , he added, provided for the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to a homeland of their own. Despite all the concessions made by his government and the confidence building undertaken, the Delegate said , had proved fruitless as Israel continued its policy of aggression and killing of the helpless Palestinian people. These acts amounted to a flagrant violation of all established principles and norms of general international law and the resolutions of the General Assembly and Security Council.

Highlighting the right of the people to self determination, which has become a “*Jus cogens*”, he said the Palestinian people had a right under international law to fight for their independence. He however, lamented that their peaceful demonstration in the form of the holy “Intifada” was being crushed by Israel. The Israeli occupation forces, the Delegate said, continued the killing of children and unarmed people by missiles, helicopters, planes and rubber bullets, which was in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilians in Times of War 1949 and other rules of international humanitarian and human rights laws. The aggression by the Israeli occupied forces, he added, had hampered the overall socio-economic development of the Palestinian people and reduced the per capita income of the people.

The Delegate said that the Palestinians were subjected to collective punishment by way of organized blockade, movement and seizure of goods, shortage of foodstuff, lack of essential commodities and pulling down of houses and factories. These atrocities were in addition to killing of innocent people.

He also added that the demographic distribution of Jerusalem and the West Bank and Gaza were being changed bringing in more of Jewish settlers.

Against this backdrop, he expressed the view that AALCO could work in a constructive way to ameliorate in some way the plight of the Palestinian people. This, he said, could be done by first undertaking a thorough legal and ethical study of the problem as the Palestinian issue was legal as much as it was a political problem; second, could support the right to justice of the Palestinian people by unequivocal condemnation of the violation of international law, by the Israeli occupation forces. And lastly, he called the AALCO to condemn the illegal practices of the Israeli forces and undertake a fact finding mission, if thought feasible, to study the widespread violation of human rights in his country. He also aired the view that, when the world-over efforts were being made to get to book perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity, the Delegate said a similar case for setting up of a tribunal could be made to try Israeli leaders.

While commending the international efforts being made by the Senator George Mitchell Peace Plan, he felt that AALCO could supplement these efforts. In conclusion, expressing his apologies for making a lengthy statement due to the seriousness and the gravity of the issue, he called for international support for adhering to the ceasefire as well as from AALCO Member States.

19. **The Delegate of the Republic of Egypt** thanked the President and the Secretariat for allocating sufficient time for discussing this very important item. Condemning the continued killing of innocent people and aggression unleashed by the Israeli occupation forces, he said these violated the sovereign right of the people to live freely, as enumerated in a number of General Assembly and Security Council resolutions and rules of general and conventional international law. In this regard, he felt that the AALCO could study the “legal aspects” of these violations on an in-depth basis.

Narrating the horrific atrocities being committed by the Israeli forces against the people of Palestine, he stated that a systematic design was underway to change the demographic composition of the occupied territories. These atrocities, the Delegate said were violative of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilians in times of war, 1949 and established rules of international humanitarian law and human rights laws. Further, he added, that the Special Session of the General Assembly held in October 2000 and the UN Commission on Human Rights held in April 2001, had unequivocally condemned the indiscriminate use of force against innocent Palestinian people and the killing of civilians as a crime against humanity or a war crime. Elaborating further, the Delegate informed the meeting that the Israeli government had refused permission to the seven UN Special Rapporteurs to assess the human rights situation in Palestine, which in itself is a total negation of the purposes and principles of peaceful co-existence enshrined in the UN Charter.

In conclusion, the Delegate called upon the international community for bringing about lasting peace by implementation of Security Council resolutions No. 242, 338 and resolution 425 of the General Assembly and a number of rules of international humanitarian law and the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

20. **The Delegate of Jordan** thanked the Secretary General and the Secretariat for preparing the good study on the topic of “Deportation of Palestinians and other Israeli Practices among them the Massive Immigration and Settlement of Jews in All Occupied Territories in Violation of International Law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949”. He also appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat to prepare good documents on other topics too. Condemning the continuing atrocities against the people of Palestine, the Delegate expressed the view that these acts constituted a flagrant violation of the principles of international law provided for in the Charter of the United Nations and the Fourth Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilians in Times of War 1949. Speaking more specifically he called for the implementation in good faith of a number of resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly which had generated the inalienable right to protection and self determination of the Palestinian people.

In this regard, he also noted the resolutions adopted by the UN Commission on Human Rights, the UNESCO and ECOSOC of the United Nations, condemning the designs of Israel to change the demographic composition of the Palestinian people and their socio-cultural ethos. While condemning the illegal practices of Israel and its violating the basic principles and purposes of the United Nations, he also made a mention of Article 103 of the United Nations which provides that State’s obligation under the Charter will take precedence over that under other treaties. On the issue of compensation to refugees the Delegate called for comprehensive compensation and his country was hosting the largest number of Palestinian refugees. The Delegate stressed the legitimate right of Palestinians to return to their homeland, and said that the Palestinian refugees were entitled to claim compensation as well as in this regard. He added that his country offered all its services to continue hosting Palestinian refugees in his country and continue as nationals of his country.

In conclusion, rejecting all Israeli practices subjugating the Palestinian people and their rights he pledged his support to the cause of Palestinians.

The Meeting then adjourned for lunch.