



Right of Reply

by

Mr. Majdi Ramadan

Item 53: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

Thursday, October 26, 2010

Mr. Chairman,

We heard the representative of the Israeli occupation expressing the commitment of his government to Security Council Resolution 1701(2006) and to UNIFIL; maybe the occupation government should match its actions with its words.

Israel can do so by immediately withdrawing its troops from the remaining Lebanese lands it continues to occupy in the Sheba'a farm lands, Kafarshuba hills and Al-Ghajar village and the adjacent area in south Lebanon.

Unfortunately none of the Israeli actions prove the claims of its representative in our Committee. Israel continues to criticize UNIFIL and had in the past criticized its Commander for his proposals to end the Israeli occupation of Al-Ghajar.

In addition, Israel over the years has threatened the safety and security of UNIFIL and UNTSO troops and positions as a demonstration of its lack of respect to International Law and SC resolutions.

The Israeli occupation army in 1996 attacked the quarters of UNIFIL in Qana, south Lebanon killing 100s of Lebanese civilians mostly children and elderly who were seeking refuge at the UN post from the Israeli "grapes of wrath campaign". Also in 2006 the same army attacked a post of UNTSO also in south Lebanon, killing truce observers. More recently after the adoption of SC resolution 1701(2006) Israel and its army has been intimidating UNIFIL troops.

Mr. Chairman,

For our part, we reiterate the full support of the Lebanese Government and the Lebanese people, specifically in south Lebanon, to UNIFIL. Lebanon is fully committed to the implementation of SC Resolution 1701(2006) in its entirety.

Lebanon highly appreciates the important role that UNIFIL plays in south Lebanon and fully recognizes the grave sacrifices it suffered. UNIFIL has been steadfast in its support for the Lebanese people in their efforts to liberate their lands from the Israeli occupation for more than 30 years now. UNIFIL is also our partner in mine clearance and in development efforts in south Lebanon.

Mr. Chairman,

All incidents of explosions south of the Litani River in south Lebanon are dully investigated jointly by UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces. The high level of cooperation extended by the Lebanese Armed Forces to UNIFIL has been recognized by several UN officials and the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of SC Resolution 1701(2006).

The Israeli delegate also made mention of Hizbollah, who is part of the National Unity Government of my country Lebanon. I would like to remind this august Committee that Hizbollah didn't exist in 1978 when Israel invaded my country Lebanon on a large scale, nor did it exist in 1982 when the Israeli occupation reached our capital Beirut. Hizbollah was only a popular grass root resistance movement in defense of its country and a natural response to the Israeli occupation; just like other national resistance movements during times of occupation.

Mr. Chairman,

Finally, those who level accusations of terrorism need to be reminded of the history of the Israeli terror groups that committed massacres in Palestine, and the highest level Israeli officials that were the subject of international arrest warrants as terrorists.