



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
118th Assembly and related meetings
Cape Town (South Africa), 13 – 18 April 2008



Assembly
Item 2

A/118/2-P.5
9 April 2008

**CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE REQUESTS FOR THE
INCLUSION OF AN EMERGENCY ITEM IN THE ASSEMBLY AGENDA**

**Request for the inclusion of an emergency item
in the agenda of the 118th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
submitted by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

On 7 April 2008, the Secretary General received from the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 118th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The grave humanitarian crisis experienced by the people of Palestine, in particular in Gaza, and the need to support the democratic choice of government of the Palestinian people".

Delegates to the 118th Assembly will find attached the text of the communication submitting the request (Annex I), as well as an explanatory memorandum (Annex II) and a draft resolution (Annex III) in support thereof.

The 118th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Monday, 14 April 2008.

Under the terms of Assembly Rule 11.1, any Member of the Union may request the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda. Such a request must be accompanied by a brief explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution which clearly define the scope of the subject covered by the request. The Secretariat shall communicate the request and any such documents immediately to all Members.

Furthermore, Assembly Rule 11.2 stipulates that:

- (a) A request for the inclusion of an emergency item must relate to a major event of international concern on which it appears necessary for the IPU to express its opinion. Such a request must receive a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in order to be accepted;
- (b) The Assembly may place only one emergency item on its agenda. Should several requests obtain the requisite majority, the one having received the largest number of positive votes shall be accepted;
- (c) The authors of two or more requests for the inclusion of an emergency item may combine their proposals to present a joint one, provided that each of the original proposals relates to the same subject;
- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the request and title of the subject adopted by the Assembly.

**COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL BY THE SECRETARY
GENERAL OF THE IPU GROUP OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

Tehran, 5 April 2008

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

Reference is made to Assembly Rules 11.1 and 11.2 on the consideration of requests submitted by Member Parliaments for the inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the Assembly on a recent event of international concern.

Under this Rule, on behalf of the IPU Group of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I would like to inform you that our Group wishes to submit the following proposal as an emergency item for inclusion in the agenda of the Assembly:

"The grave humanitarian crisis experienced by the people of Palestine, in particular in Gaza, and the need to support the democratic choice of government of the Palestinian people".

Attached please find the text of an explanatory memorandum together with a draft resolution on the proposed item for circulation among Member Parliaments.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Seyed Mohsen YAHYAVI
Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary
Group of the Islamic Republic of Iran

**THE GRAVE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS EXPERIENCED BY THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE,
IN PARTICULAR IN GAZA, AND THE NEED TO SUPPORT THE DEMOCRATIC
CHOICE OF GOVERNMENT OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**

***Explanatory memorandum submitted by the
Inter-Parliamentary Group of the Islamic Republic of Iran***

The atrocities committed by Israel in Palestine, particularly in Gaza, and which reached a peak in recent months constitute a flagrant violation of all human rights standards and principles of human dignity, and therefore undermine respect for international law. The continued violence has taken countless lives of defenceless Palestinians, including women and children, under Israel's State terrorism. The policies of collective punishment, excessive use of force, and the blockade of humanitarian aid to the besieged people of Gaza contravene all relevant international instruments and are a shame to humanity as a whole.

Furthermore, the establishment of a Palestinian State based on respect for the will of people - which is long overdue - is necessary in order to achieve peace in the Middle East and in the world in general.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union can play a central role in supporting the Palestinian cause by condemning the violent acts committed by Israel and by calling for the establishment of a Palestinian State based on the democratic choice of the people of Palestine.

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***Draft resolution submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Group of
the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN***

The 118th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Deeply concerned* about the grave humanitarian crisis in Palestine, particularly in Gaza,
- (2) *Expressing* its strong resentment of the atrocities committed by Israel in Palestine, particularly in Gaza,
- (3) *Recalling* the prohibition under international law of policies such as collective punishment and the blockade of humanitarian supplies and aid to civilians,
- (4) *Respecting* the democratic choice of government of the Palestinian people,
 1. *Condemns*, in the strongest terms, the crimes and atrocities committed by Israel in Gaza;
 2. *Urges* the international community to exert pressure on the Israeli Government to immediately cease such crimes against humanity and to allow the flow of daily needed supplies to the people of Gaza, including international humanitarian aid to civilians in the besieged areas of Palestine;
 3. *Calls on* all parliaments of the world to take the necessary measures to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinians and to urgently provide humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people;
 4. *Demands* that the Israeli Government respect the principles of international law in its treatment of the defenceless people of Palestine, in particular by not adopting measures leading to the collective punishment of the Palestinian people;
 5. *Declares* that the dismal situation prevailing in Palestine is rooted in the Israeli occupation of the territories;
 6. *Respects* and supports the democratic choice of government of the Palestinians and *calls for* unity among the different Palestinian factions;
 7. *Believes* that a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian issue can only be achieved by ending the occupation and creating an independent Palestinian State based on the democratic choice of government of the people of Palestine;
 8. *Requests* that the Secretary General follow up on the provisions of this resolution.