



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
122nd Assembly and related meetings
Bangkok (Thailand), 27th March - 1st April 2010



Assembly
Item 2

A/122/2-P.6
28 March 2010

**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 122nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
submitted by the delegation of Palestine, on behalf of the Arab Group,
and by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

On 28 March 2010, the Secretary General received from the delegation of Palestine, on behalf of the Arab Group, and the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 122nd Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"Israeli violations of the religious and cultural rights of the Palestinian people, in particular in and around Jerusalem, rejection of Israel's announcement to include the Haram al-Ibrahimi and Bilal Ibn Rabah Mosques, in addition to the walls of the old city of Jerusalem, in its list of national heritage sites, and the need to reverse all Israeli settlement activities, particularly in East Jerusalem".

Delegates to the 122nd Assembly will find attached the text of the communication submitting the request (Annex I), an explanatory memorandum (Annex II), as well as a draft resolution (Annex III) in support thereof.

The 122nd Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Palestine, on behalf of the Arab Group, and of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on Sunday, 28 March 2010.

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
DELEGATION OF PALESTINE, ON BEHALF OF THE ARAB GROUP,
AND BY THE DELEGATION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

27 March 2010

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

The Inter-Parliamentary Group of Palestine, on behalf of the Arab Group, and the Inter-Parliamentary Group of the Islamic Republic of Iran have decided to merge their proposals for an emergency item and request the inclusion of the following emergency item in the agenda of the 122nd Assembly to be held in Bangkok:

"Israeli violations of the religious and cultural rights of the Palestinian people, in particular in and around Jerusalem, rejection of Israel's announcement to include the Haram al-Ibrahimi and Bilal Ibn Rabah Mosques, in addition to the walls of the old city of Jerusalem, in its list of national heritage sites, and the need to reverse all Israeli settlement activities, particularly in East Jerusalem".

You are kindly requested to circulate this item among the Member Parliaments.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) Zuhair SANDUKA
Delegation of Palestine

(signed) Heshamtollah
FALLAHAT PISHEH
Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran

ISRAELI VIOLATIONS OF THE RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, IN PARTICULAR IN AND AROUND JERUSALEM, REJECTION OF ISRAEL'S ANNOUNCEMENT TO INCLUDE THE HARAM AL-IBRAHIMI AND BILAL IBN RABAH MOSQUES, IN ADDITION TO THE WALLS OF THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM, IN ITS LIST OF NATIONAL HERITAGE SITES, AND THE NEED TO REVERSE ALL ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY IN EAST JERUSALEM

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of Palestine, on behalf of the Arab Group, and by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran

In a special sitting of the Israeli Cabinet on 21 February 2010, the Israeli Prime Minister announced that he intended to add to the so-called "Jewish Heritage List" two Islamic holy sites: the Haram Ibrahim Mosque and the Bilal Ibn Rabah Mosque.

The two above-mentioned holy sites were built by Muslims many centuries ago. Muslims have performed their religious rituals in them since their inception.

Such acts have been compounded by numerous violations of Islamic and Christian sites in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, which are flagrant violations of international law, international humanitarian law, the Geneva Conventions, the Hague Convention of 1954 for the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, relevant UN resolutions and peace agreements, and will serve to deteriorate the situation and lead to a religious conflict.

Israel continues its settlement activities and construction of the separation wall, demolition of houses, confiscation of land and desecration of Islamic and Christian holy sites, which undermine opportunities for peace in the Middle East.

ISRAELI VIOLATIONS OF THE RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, IN PARTICULAR IN AND AROUND JERUSALEM, REJECTION OF ISRAEL'S ANNOUNCEMENT TO INCLUDE THE HARAM AL-IBRAHIMI AND BILAL IBN RABAH MOSQUES, IN ADDITION TO THE WALLS OF THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM, IN ITS LIST OF NATIONAL HERITAGE SITES, AND THE NEED TO REVERSE ALL ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY IN EAST JERUSALEM

Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of PALESTINE, on behalf of the ARAB GROUP, and by the delegation of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

The 122nd Inter-Parliamentary Assembly,

- (1) *Considering* UN Security Council resolution 1860 of 8 January 2009 on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question,
- (2) *Bearing in mind* the UNESCO resolutions calling for the protection of cultural sites and properties in Jerusalem as well as the prohibition of any assaults on properties and antiquities, or any measures leading to a change in the cultural and geographical features of the Holy City,
- (3) *Mindful* of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949, relative to The Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War,
- (4) *Considering* the 1991 Madrid Peace Conference, the 1993 Oslo Accords, the Middle East Quartet's Roadmap of 30 April 2003, and the commitments entered into at the Annapolis Conference in 2007,
- (5) *Mindful* of the IPU Resolution on "Safeguarding the status of the Holy City of Jerusalem and utilising all possible means likely to thwart manoeuvres which are prejudicial to its identity and gravely endanger security and the peace process in the area", adopted without a vote on 14 April 1997,
 1. *Condemns in the strongest terms* the plans of the Israeli Government to include in the so-called "Jewish Heritage list" two Islamic holy sites: the Haram Ibrahim Mosque and the Bilal Ibn Rabah Mosque, which are in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and *calls on* Israel to revoke these illegal plans;
 2. *Calls on* Israel to end its excavations around and under Al-Aqsa Mosque in particular, and the old city of Jerusalem in general, and to revoke any other Israeli measures and actions aimed at altering the legal status and the demographic structure of Jerusalem and to consider such measures invalid;
 3. *Condemns* Israeli settlement, construction and expansion activities anywhere in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including Jerusalem, which is destroying trust between the parties and undermining the credibility of the international community;
 4. *Draws attention* to the fact that building settlements on Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem, is illegal under international law and that settlement activities prejudice the outcome of final status negotiations and compromise the viability of an agreed two-State solution;

5. *Calls on* Israel to freeze all settlement activities in accordance with international law and with a view to establishing an atmosphere of trust, which is needed to resume peace talks;
6. *Expresses* its outrage at the latest Israeli plans to build 1,600 settlement units in East Jerusalem and 120 units in the West Bank, and *calls on* Israel to cancel these plans;
7. *Calls for* the release of all Palestinian detainees, including members of parliament;
8. *Insists* that any Israeli government should endorse without any ambiguity the two-State solution consisting of an independent, democratic, viable and contiguous Palestinian State along the 4 June 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital and a just solution for the Palestinian refugees in accordance with UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/194 (III) of 11 December 1948 and the Arab Initiative;
9. *Calls on* Israel to lift the blockade on the Gaza Strip in order to allow the movement of goods and persons, without any restriction whatsoever, and to allow unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance and aid, and *insists* on the permanent re-opening of all crossing points to the Gaza Strip, and *further calls on* Israel to lift restrictions on the movement and access of Palestinians within, to and from the entire occupied Palestinian territories;
10. *Calls for* the implementation of all the recommendations contained in the Goldstone Report.