

Statement by Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations on "The Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question" at the Security Council, on 13 June 2002

**Mr. President,**

Thank you for giving me the floor.

2. It was not very long ago, Mr. President, that the Security Council adopted resolution 1397 with its vision of a region where two states would "live side by side within secure and recognized borders." It also recalled the two landmark resolutions, 242 and 338, reaffirming the principle of land for peace. Resolution 1397 was agreed in the wake of the bold proposal of Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia and of the Beirut Declaration, underscoring the commitment of the Arab countries to peace and reconciliation in the Middle East. Together they constituted the configuration of a peace settlement in the Middle East - an opportunity to move back from the brink of violence and destruction but also to find a way out of this tragic quagmire. What was required was the establishment of timelines for the implementation of Security Council resolutions and the fulfilment of their objectives. Unfortunately, instead of the sincere implementation of this endorsed vision of peace with sincerity, the Israeli response was intransigence accompanied by the continuing use of force and violence. Once again, the prospects of peace in the Holy Land are being crushed under the tracks of Israeli tanks.

**Mr. President,**

3. Pakistan condemns Israel's latest military incursion into Ramallah and the continuing encirclement of President Yasser Arafat's headquarters. This incursion, together with the raids into Tulkarm, Bethlehem, and Jenin, have resulted in civilian casualties and the destruction of property. All these Israeli actions constitute serious breaches of its legal obligations and responsibilities, as an Occupying Power, under Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August, 1949 and also violate the provisions of Security Council resolution 1402.

4. The goal in the Holy Land is to find a final settlement, not to impose a final solution. The people of Israel, no doubt, appreciate the distinction.

5. Peace cannot be durable if it is imposed through the barrel of a gun. Durable peace cannot be achieved by eliminating your interlocutor or installing one of your own choice. Peace cannot come with one side, literally, calling the shots.

6. When the avenues of dialogue and negotiations are closed, the Security Council must assume its responsibilities under the Charter to secure the implementation of its resolutions and decisions. Israel must cease its aggression against the Palestinian people and their lawful government. The Security Council has agreed on the nature of the framework of peace; what is needed now is to identify the specific goals which need to be achieved to realize the agreed vision of resolution 1397 and the timelines for doing so. This Council, and the international community, must turn its attention to this task.

**Mr. President,**

7. Violence begets violence. It is not the path to peace, in the Middle East or elsewhere. The present deteriorating situation in Palestine warrants the urgent attention of the international community. We must act, and act with determination, to prevent the situation from descending into chaos - chaos in which neither side can realize their hopes for peace with security. The prospects of peace in the Middle East will continue to remain bleak without the immediate cessation of all acts of violence, provocation and destruction. Those who have the responsibility to maintain international peace, especially the Security Council, must, therefore, act, and act now, to realize this objective and revive the hopes of a durable peace in that region.

**I thank you, Mr. President.**

New York  
13 June, 2002