

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security, (Conflict Related Sexual Violence)  
23 February 2012, Security Council Chamber

*Statement by H.E Mottaghi Nejad, Permanent Representative of Iran*

I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for giving me the opportunity to take the floor at this late hour.

It was not the intention of my delegation to deliver a statement on this agenda item. But since the representative of the Israeli regime, in his statement this afternoon, once again digressed from the main discussion in the Council and levelled some allegations about my country, I ask your indulgence, Mr. President, so that I might say a few words in that regard.

The representative of the Israeli regime referred to the case of a woman in Iran. While my delegation strongly refutes the allegations concerning that young lady, I would like to mention that it would have been better for the Israeli representative to talk about the thousands and thousands of Palestinian women and girls who have fallen victim to the atrocities committed by his regime in Gaza and other occupied lands of Palestine.

I am sure that the members of the Council are aware of the case of a Palestinian woman who delivered a baby while being kept waiting for hours at a checkpoint by the occupying forces. I can cite many, many other cases of violations of human rights committed by that regime.

However, my delegation is of the belief that, in addressing the agenda item under consideration here, we should stick to the main issues at hand. The Council is not the proper platform for the representative of a regime whose occupying forces have violated the basic human rights of millions of people, including women and girls, to preach to us about human rights.

I know that the hour is late, but I deemed it necessary to reply to the childish allegation that was made.