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**Special session of the Human Rights Council
Geneva, 5 July 2006**

**Salle des Assemblées
(3.00 to 6.00 pm)**

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions in Geneva, United Nations departments and bodies, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and has the honour to inform them that as a follow up to the announcement made by the President of the Human Rights Council after the closure of the first session on Friday 30 June 2006, the President of the Human Rights Council having consulted with the Bureau and interested parties, has decided to convene a special session on Wednesday, 5 July 2006, in Salle des Assemblées from 3.00 to 6.00 pm., in order to respond to the request of the Ambassador of Tunisia, Chairman of the Arab Group, supported in total by 21 Member States.

The request communicated by the Chairperson of the Arab Group read as follows: *"Taking into account the provisions of GA resolution 60/251 entitled "Human Rights Council", namely operative paragraph 3 and operative paragraph 5 (f) of that resolution, which state, inter alia, that the "Council should address situations of violations of human rights, including gross and systematic violations [...] and contribute, through dialogue and cooperation, towards the prevention of human rights violations and respond promptly to human rights emergencies," we the undersigned call for a special session, in accordance with operative paragraph 10 of the above resolution, due to the serious and escalating situation as well as the human rights violations in the occupied Palestinian territory caused by the recent Israeli military operations against Palestinian civilians"*.

In order for a special session to be convened, in conformity with operative paragraph 10 of the General Assembly Resolution 60/251, the support of one-third of the membership of the Council (16 members or more) is required. The above mentioned request was signed by the following 21 Member States: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Cuba, Gabon, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Tunisia.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'N' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

3 July 2006