



Argentina

CONSEJO DE SEGURIDAD

**Intervención del Embajador D. Jorge ARGUELLO
Representante Permanente de Argentina ante las Naciones Unidas
Debate abierto sobre el tema “Protección de Civiles en los
Conflictos Armados”**

**Nueva York, 22 de junio de 2007
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SECURITY COUNCIL

**Statement by Ambassador Jorge ARGUELLO
Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations at the
Open debate on agenda item “Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict”**

**New York, June 22nd, 2007
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New York, NY 10017**

Mr. President,

At the outset of this statement the Argentine delegation would like to thank you for convening this open debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

At the same time we would like to express our thankfulness to the Under-Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs and Coordinator of Emergency Assistant of the United Nations, Mr. John Holmes for his presentation to the Council.

Argentina attaches great importance to the question of protection of civilians in armed conflicts. In this sense we have had the honor of being a member of the Security Council when Resolutions 1265, 1296 and 1674 were negotiated and adopted which today constitute a current legal regimen in this issue. We understand that the efficacy of the Security Council in improving the protection of civilians is one of the central areas through which the international public opinion evaluates the contribution of the Council to the maintenance of international peace and security.

As the predecessor of Mr. Holmes pointed out, the responsibility to protect civilians in conflict is a central principle of humanity that must be depoliticized and transformed into joint action of Security Council members and international organizations.

The persistence of atrocities against civilians that is evident through regular evaluations of the Council makes it necessary to reflect on the possibility that in certain conflicts such measures be taken that are currently foreseen for situations where the states that are involved in a conflict do not have the political will or capability to adopt effective actions to protect civilians affected by this crisis.

There is no consideration of national security that could prevail over the obligation of states and other parties in conflict to comply with humanitarian law.

Argentina appreciates the work of the Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the agencies of the system regarding the protection of civilians, including the area of refugees and internally displaced, as well as women, children and other vulnerable groups in the framework of armed conflicts.

My country most emphatically condemns the attacks that humanitarian personnel has to suffer and wants to send its sincere condolences to the families and friends of those who generously sacrificed their lives while assisting populations in humanitarian emergencies.

The responsibility of the States to protect the humanitarian personnel and provide them full, unimpeded access to the affected civilian populations is clearly established in the current law and must not be eluded in any way.

The Security Council incorporated in its agenda the question of protection of civilians several years ago and has been establishing a legal regime in the subject. In this sense up to the present it had before itself such tools that were useful for the protection of civilians such as the Road Map, the Memorandum and the Platform of Ten Points. At the same time it has received valuable suggestions to improve the information mechanism on the protection of civilians.

Now is the time to put Resolution 1674 in practice. It must be fully implemented and developed.

The opportunity of the presentation of the report next October on the protection of civilians by the Secretary General gives us the possibility that OCHA may undertake a detailed balance of the international situation in this subject and propose new ideas and approaches as well as specific actions to take, including in issues regarding the access of humanitarian personnel to populations affected by conflict and the security of journalists, professionals of the media and associated personnel.

To finish, we would like to express to Mr. Holmes our best wishes in his task as well as our commitment to continue supporting OCHA in this and other bodies of our Organization.

Thank you very much.