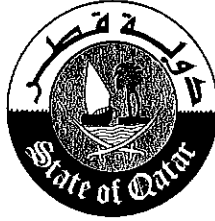


بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Statement by

**His Excellency Ambassador
Nassir Bin Abdulaziz al-Nasser**

**Permanent Representative
of the State of Qatar**

**In the Open Debate of
The Security Council**

On

**The Protection of
Civilians in Armed Conflict**

New York/ December 4, 2006

**Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations – New York
809 U.N. Plaza, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10017. Tel: (212) 486-9335. Fax: (212) 758-4952**

*Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

The prevention of armed conflicts is undoubtedly one of the first priorities of this international organization according to its charter. However, the most tragic losses in situations of armed conflicts are those inflicted on civilians. These losses are among the most heinous manifestations of armed conflicts. Therefore the UN bodies responsible for the protection of civilians in armed conflicts must devote sufficient attention and effort to this task.

Despite efforts made to protect civilians, recent years have regrettably seen an increase in the number of armed conflicts across the world. We have also seen a noticeable change in the nature of these conflicts. Urban and residential areas have been increasingly transformed into battle fields in internal conflicts and civil strife which contributed to the surge in the number of victims among civilian populations.

Whereas the impact of armed conflicts is more heavily felt among women and children by comparison to other sectors of the population, the international community has only lately begun to realize this fact. Therefore, we must focus on the suffering of women and children who are caught in armed conflicts. On the other hand, we note the continued recruitment of child and youth soldiers which doubles their exposure to the risk of falling victim to armed conflicts.

Many of the conflicts that are raging today are fought among non-state actors. Many of these actors fail to uphold international humanitarian law and to commit to protect human rights. This problem must be addressed differently from the way in which violations committed by states and governments' is addressed.

*Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is indispensable to obtain the right information about unfolding developments in a given armed conflict while efforts are made to put an end to it. This important task falls to the journalists who face grave dangers to bring the truth out to the public. Consequently, the