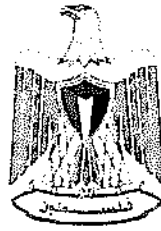


*Permanent Observer Mission
of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations*



البعثة المراقبة الدائمة
لدولة فلسطين
لدى الأمم المتحدة

Message of

**H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Abbas
President of the State of Palestine
Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization**

on the occasion of

**the International Day of Solidarity
with the Palestinian People**

24 November 2014

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations,
H.E. Mr. Sam Kahamba Kutesa, President of the General Assembly,
H.E. Mr. Gary Quinlan, President of the Security Council,
H.E. Mr. Fode' Seck, Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the
Palestinian People,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I wish to convey to you the greetings of the State of Palestine and the Palestinian people, and to all our friends participating in the commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People around the world. We commemorate this occasion one year after the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the year 2014 as the *International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People*, and two years following its adoption of the historic resolution to raise the status of Palestine to a non-member observer State in the United Nations. Of course, our objective and endeavors remain the attainment of full membership in the United Nations, which is our people's legitimate and legal right.

We underscore, in this regard, the call in General Assembly resolution 181(II) - by which historic Palestine was partitioned - for consideration to be given to the application for membership in the United Nations by either State. We recall further that Israel's admission to the United Nations in 1949 was accompanied by two conditions: its commitment to resolution 181(II) and the establishment of the Palestinian State, as well as to resolution 194(III), which was reaffirmed in the Arab Peace Initiative, to reach a just and agreed solution to the plight of Palestine refugees.

On this day, we renew our deep gratitude to all Member States, intergovernmental organizations, and civil society, as well as to all our brothers, sisters, friends and all freedom and peace-loving peoples around the world, who continue to steadfastly stand by our people. We are grateful for their solidarity and support of the Palestinian people's legitimate national aspirations for the achievement of their freedom and independence and the realization of a just and lasting peace.

Despite all the challenges, hardships and setbacks, we continue to have faith and hope that a just peace can be achieved in our region and that right must prevail. Therefore, we appeal to you to continue to stand firmly for peace, for the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the

right to self-determination, which the Palestinian people have too long been denied. It is high time to find the political will to act decisively for the realization of the inalienable rights of our people, including to independence of the State of Palestine, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Since its inception, the United Nations has defended our cause, keeping it a priority on the agenda of the international community. The United Nations has extended a helping hand to our people, and has legislated resolutions and recommendations that constitute the foundation that can not be bypassed in the search for a just, lasting and comprehensive solution. We reaffirm here the permanent responsibility of the United Nations towards the question of Palestine, which must be upheld until this question is satisfactorily resolved in all its aspects.

In this regard, we express our deep appreciation of the efforts exerted by H.E. the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and the efforts exerted by the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and its Chair, H.E. Ambassador Fode' Seck of Senegal, as well as the Bureau, and all Members and Observers of the Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights of the United Nations Secretariat, aimed at realizing the rights of the Palestinian people and achieving a just, lasting peace.

Today, we also reaffirm our gratitude for the strong and principled resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Human Rights Council and other United Nations organs and bodies, including the International Court of Justice, all of which have contributed to safeguarding the rights of our people over many decades and addressed all facets of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, including, *inter-alia*, the Palestine refugees issue, the right to self-determination, the status of Jerusalem, the illegal Israeli settlement campaign, the unjust blockade imposed on our people in the Gaza Strip, the Wall, and the issue of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

We regret the lack of implementation of the countless resolutions regarding the question of Palestine, a fact that has clearly compounded the conflict over the many decades, inflicting grave hardships on the Palestinian people and the continued denial of their rights. This regrettable reality deepens the widespread conviction that there is indeed a double standard when it comes to United Nations resolutions regarding Israel, which are not implemented, allowing Israel to continue behaving as though it is a State above the law.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year marked the passage of 47 years since June 1967, when Israel forcibly occupied the remainder of historic Palestine - the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. This year also witnessed the suffering of our people under another brutal military aggression by Israel, the occupying Power. That aggression this past summer targeted in specific the occupied Gaza Strip, where our people endured a barbaric Israeli aggression that killed and injured our people, including our children, caused massive destruction and flattened homes atop entire families, inflicting horrific devastation that has been condemned by all.

We insist that this injustice must end and this military occupation of our land and our people must end. We reiterate our urgent calls to the international community to act forthwith to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with its legal obligations, relevant United Nations resolutions

and international commitments and to cease completely its violations of international law and its illegal, aggressive and destructive policies and practices.

In this regard, we have presented, through the Arab Group, a draft resolution to the Security Council to set a timeframe for ending the Israeli occupation of our land that has lasted for too long.

Of course, we continue to insist that the insidious Israeli settlement campaign and the confiscation of Palestinian lands in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, the capital of our State, must be completely halted. The demolition of Palestinian homes, the expulsion of Palestinians from their homes and properties, and the forced displacement of the Palestinian people must stop. Construction of the apartheid annexation wall must be ceased.

The Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails must be released.

The unjust, inhumane blockade imposed on the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip must be completely lifted. The reconstruction of Gaza must be undertaken in the most expeditious manner and we must heal the wounds of our brave Palestinian people, including the children, women and elderly and all of the civilians in Gaza.

All of the illegal actions and measures aimed at Judaization of East Jerusalem and altering or erasing Palestinian and Christian and Muslim presence in and the identity of the Holy City must be halted, including the Israeli attempts to establish temporal and spatial presence in Al-Aqsa Mosque and Al-Haram Al-Sharif, which is rejected.

All acts of violence and terrorism perpetrated by Israeli settlers against the Palestinian civilian population must be stopped.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

The State of Palestine continues to act with utmost responsibility to serve its people and uphold its legal obligations and international commitments. It has consistently acted in good faith for the sake of peace, repeatedly reaffirming its adherence to the longstanding parameters for peace - embodied in Security Council resolutions, the Madrid principles, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Roadmap - and its adherence to the two-State solution for the realization of an independent, sovereign, democratic, viable and contiguous State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, living side by side with Israel in peace and security on the basis of the pre-1967 borders.

We have expressed our readiness for decades to make a historic compromise in order to reach a solution to the conflict with Israel that conforms with international resolutions and initiatives through the establishment of our Palestinian State on only 22 percent of the territory of historic Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and to reach a just and agreed upon solution to the plight of Palestine refugees in accordance with General Assembly resolution 194(III).

We reaffirm these commitments and that readiness once again today. Despite diminishing hopes and the dangerous situation on the ground due to Israel's continuing violations and its brutal aggression against the Gaza Strip this past summer, we remain committed to the two-State solution.

I assure you that we desire to achieve a just peace that redresses the historic, unprecedented injustice that has befallen the Palestinian people since *Al-Nakba* of 1948 to the present day. We seek

a peace that leads to a complete end to the Israeli occupation and the realization of the independence of the State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, on all the Palestinian lands occupied in 1967; a peace that ensures security and dignity for our people; a peace that provides a just and agreed upon solution to the plight of Palestine refugees in accordance with General Assembly resolution 194(III), as called for by the Arab Peace Initiative. In this regard, we stress that this historic initiative, which was widely and favorably received by the international community, constitutes a real opportunity for the accomplishment of a comprehensive regional peace, which gives Israel recognition by the Arabs in exchange for full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and implementation of the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are grateful for the many expressions and actions of solidarity with the Palestinian people extended from all the peoples of the world, which we witnessed during the last Israeli war on Gaza. I wish here to recognize the changes in the Western world where the popular sentiment has reached the official political levels. Sweden moved ahead bravely in this regard with its recognition of the State of Palestine, and we hope that other European countries will follow suit. Here we also recognize the important and overwhelming motions in support of recognition of the State of Palestine by the parliaments in the United Kingdom, in Ireland, in Spain and the upcoming votes in France and other European countries in this regard. We are deeply appreciative of all of these positive developments, which enhance the opportunities for peace and security and stability in the region. Does Israel, the occupying Power, understand all of the messages in this regard?

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On this day, which marks the sixty-seventh anniversary of the adoption of the partition resolution in 1947, and in this year, the international year of solidarity with our people, the Palestinian people look forward with great hope to the future. They are determined to remain steadfast on their land and to realize their inalienable rights, confident that the international community will stand with right and justice so that hope, freedom, peace and security can prevail and that will ensure a better for all of our children.

May peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.