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IN SUPPORT OF ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE**

The urgency of realizing a two-State solution

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

PLENARY I

**Advancing peace between Israelis and Palestinians –
Obstacles and opportunities**

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Jerusalem : a Key to Peace in the Middle East

Your Excellency Minister Almagro, Your Excellency Mr. Diallo, H.E. Dr. Saeb Erakat, Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, Honourable members of the Committee, Your Excellencies, the representatives of civil society, ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour for me to be addressing you today on the question of Jerusalem in the context of the world's lengthy search for peace in the Middle East.

I wish to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee as well as the organizers for your invitation and more so for the great work and efforts you exert to safeguard and promote the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

I would also like to thank the Uruguayan Government, which is hosting this conference, as well as all the Latin American countries for contributing concretely to the peace efforts by recognizing the Palestinian State within the pre-1967 borders.

I. Introduction

A Process Devoid of Peace

It is 64 years to UN Resolution 181, 63 years to the NAKBA, the expulsion of the Palestinian people from their homeland, 62 years to UN Resolution 194 which confirmed the right of return, 43 years to UN resolution 242, 22 years since the Palestinians' historical political compromise by accepting to establish a state in 22% of their homeland, historic Palestine, 20 years to the Madrid Peace Conference, 18 years to the signing of the Oslo accords, 8 years to the road map and 7 years to the ICJ opinion on the illegality of the Wall.

The list is far from exhaustive and is clear indication that the peace process, which promised Palestinians statehood, was a process devoid of peace.

This process was characterized by international involvement, heavy diplomacy, numerous encounters and well financed but, unfortunately, not productive.

What is worse, the price at the human level that Palestinians had to pay was too high, too painful and too unjust.

The Palestinian refugees, about 3.5 million, still linger in refugee camps, many under revolting conditions.

Under occupation, Palestinians continue to suffer from prolonged occupation, and control of every aspect of our lives, expulsions, dispossession, daily humiliation, settler colonization and violence, the manipulation of religious beliefs and the historical narrative, laws and regulations to support oppression, tyrannical and massive military force, and a wall constructed in our midst, siege, impoverishment, strangulation of

mobility and the denial of a future. This status quo continues unabated and in total impunity.

In the meantime, the parameters of a peaceful solution are well known to all, a Palestinian State in the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, living in peace and security next to Israel, and a just solution of the refugee question.

Moreover, a formula for regional peace is also known and there is no other. This is the Arab Peace Initiative. The Arab Peace Initiative offers total peace and normal relations with Israel by 57 Arab and Moslem States against the return of all territories occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem, and an agreed upon solution to the Palestinian refugee question.

Yet the peace that we all seek seems increasingly elusive. This is most apparent in East Jerusalem, which is a microcosm, where the occupation measures are most pronounced and it is the heart of the conflict. Jerusalem is the barrier or a gateway to peace.

II. Obstacles and Hurdles

I would like to elaborate on four main obstacles that stand in the way of progress in the peace process and the realization of the two-State solution.

II.1. Settlements and facts on the ground

East Jerusalem, 6.5 square kilometres in 1967, was annexed immediately after the war and with it about 70 square kilometres from the West Bank to make up the new Municipality of Jerusalem. These annexed areas later mushroomed into 'Greater Jerusalem', extending on about 250 square kilometres of the West Bank territory.

This annexed 'Great Jerusalem' was intended to constitute Israel's united and eternal capital, placed it under its jurisdiction and adopted geo-political measures to implement it.

To succeed, this project Israel proceeded since 1967 with a major colonisation programme and discriminatory laws and regulations to change the demography and geography of this Great Jerusalem in its favour. Israel legitimized this process by imposing its own jurisdiction on the city and by creating new imposing facts on the ground against the provisions of international law. According to the international community, including the United States, both East and West Jerusalem are subject to negotiations.

Settlements/colonies

All settlements built by Israel in the OPT, including East Jerusalem, are illegal according to international law. They constitute the main obstacle to any progress in peace making. This is the position of almost all members of the international community including the US, except Israel.

The settlement programme is designed to create two rings of population centres around this Great Jerusalem – a larger ring to define the external borders consisting of 18 settlements, and an internal ring that surrounds Israel Municipal borders also consisting of 18 settlements. A third type, consisting of a small core of settlements, now 100, was constructed in the midst of Palestinian neighbourhoods of the city.

These settlements are served by a huge road network that has two main functions: to make the settlements contiguous and to be connected with Israel proper (within the 1949 armistice line), but also to limit the growth of Palestinian neighbourhoods. Palestinians are denied any land almost to future development as they were confined only to 13% of their own city, including the already populated and badly serviced neighbourhoods.

Already these illegal settlements constructed in the OPT house 266,175 settlers (according to ARIJ). While the Palestinian Jerusalemites living now in the city within the Apartheid Wall do not exceed 120,000 from a total of about 250,000.

Additionally 20 outposts were established as frontier locations either aiming at establishing new settlements or as bargaining chips (source: ARIJ) for future negotiations.

The Apartheid Wall

Israel surrounds the Greater Jerusalem with the Apartheid Wall that snakes in, around and between Palestinian neighbourhoods and villages, isolating them from their natural extension in the rest of the Occupied Territory and imposing its borders if ever an agreement is reached with the Palestinian side. All these measures are considered illegal by international law, the Madrid reference for the peace process and signed agreements. On 9 July 2004, the ICJ clearly determined that the Wall was against international law.

The Palestinians call it the Apartheid Wall due to its destructive impact on all aspects of their lives. Jerusalem is the economic, cultural, religious and social centre for Palestinians throughout history. Their sudden isolation from their natural extension in the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory brought dire economic, social and psychological hardships very difficult to overcome and had caused great sufferings to the Palestinian Jerusalemites in particular and also to all Palestinians in general.

Humanitarian concerns: obstacle to confidence building

Israel's policies to change the demography of the city in its favour succeeded in evicting more than half of the city's Palestinian population. These policies also have caused extreme hardships at the humanitarian level as the Palestinian population suffers the denial of their most basic rights over a prolonged occupation. The last report of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) had just been published and it concluded that the Israeli discriminatory measures: 'Are significantly increasing the humanitarian vulnerability of the Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem'.... *and* 'in the long term, failure to address these push factors risks undermining the Palestinian presence in East Jerusalem'.

The following are only some of the concerns:

1- The revocation of residency status and expulsion:

Over 14,000 persons lost their residency rights and hence future rights to stay or even to visit the city. 10,000 children are considered illegal residents in their own city for lack of sufficient documentation. They have no right to legal documentation or education. Four elected officials to the Palestinian Legislative Council have been deported. (please see attached annex).

2- Planning, zoning and housing restrictions

Succeeded to reduce the proportion of Palestinians to Jews in the city from 35% after the 1967 war to 16% today (and the trend will lead to further decrease).

Just as an example, housing permits for settlers totalled 50,000 since 1967 and 15,000 for Palestinians in their own city. While the Master Plan for 2020 allocates 47,000 housing units needed for the Palestinians, it actually allocates for the target year 2,300 dunums, that is, the space for only 9,200 apartments.

3- Demolitions & evictions

Obtaining a building permit is also costly and very complicated for Palestinians. Hence, also according to OCHA, 28% percent of Jerusalem homes are built illegally and risk being demolished any time whenever the Israel Jerusalem Municipality chooses. Hence, at least 60,000 persons risk becoming homeless. Complicated and well controlled land registration procedures reduce the possibility for Palestinians to apply for building permits.

The housing crisis is hence acute aggravated by the dire economic conditions in the city and the poor services rendered to the Palestinian population. The situation gets more painful because the Palestinian Jerusalemites who move outside the Israeli defined borders risk to lose their residency permit and hence their right to access the city.

The Palestinians also have restricted access to services. This includes insufficient schools, utilities, open green space, roads and pavements, and most urgent of all, housing, as mentioned above.

As in the OCHA report, the same concerns have been strongly reported by the Representative of the European Union in Jerusalem and Ramallah with strong recommendations calling for members of the EU to take necessary action to stop the Israeli occupation measures in East Jerusalem and hence save the peace.

II.2. Jerusalem and the Peace Process

The UN Partition Plan of 1947 envisioned an international status for Jerusalem to accommodate its importance as a centre of successive civilizations and cultures and the heart of the three monotheistic religions. The UN position evolved with Security Council Resolution 242 whereby Israel was to respect international legitimacy by

considering Arab East Jerusalem part of the occupied territories and to desist from changing its legal status (review the elaboration of the arguments on this subject by both Taher Shash and Galia Golan in two separate articles in the Israel Palestine Journal, vol.17, 2011).

This position was further adopted in the Oslo Accords. Israel, however, continued to change the geography and the demography of the city in its favour unabated. In 1980, it declared United Jerusalem its own capital through "Jerusalem: the capital of Israel Law". It continued and still continues the settlement expansion in the Greater Jerusalem, to impose the Apartheid Wall in and around East Jerusalem to prevent the possibility of it being the future capital of a Palestinian State and to pre-empt a Palestinian State altogether.

As a final status issue, Jerusalem was first negotiated in 2000 in the Camp David II talks. While these negotiations have advanced, they have failed mainly on the issue of sovereignty on the Holy Sanctuary, the Haram Al-Sharif. This will remain the thorniest issue because of the emotional implications to all parties. It is practically impossible to imagine that the Palestinians and with them the Arab and Moslem World will ever accept to hand it over the sovereignty to Israel.

Many solutions and ideas for a breakthrough on the Old City of Jerusalem were proposed. Some suggest that a breakthrough is only possible if some of the original internationalization aspects of the *corpus separatum* are revisited at least regarding the Holy Sites in the Old City of Jerusalem. Also proposed for consideration is to entrust the Holy sites to a temporary international council of representative countries.

Over the span of the so called peace process, a number of peace plans on sharing Jerusalem have been placed on the table. To name a few are the Clinton Parameters in 2000, the Taba talks of 2001, the Arab Peace Initiative of 2002 and the Geneva Initiative of 2004 which proposed a detailed solution, studied and proposed jointly by Israeli and Palestinian civil society.

Not only were no agreement reached but the growing right-wing extremists and religious fundamentalists in Israel and their acts of provocation, especially in terms of increasingly expanding settlements, risk to give a final blow to achieving peace.

II.3. Sovereignty

Palestinian rights to sovereignty in East Jerusalem within the pre-1967 borders are not questionable and are based on international law.

The UN confirmed in successive resolutions the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and considers the Palestinian land Israel occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem, occupied territories, to which apply the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, and called upon Israel to withdraw from these lands. It also refused to recognize West Jerusalem and, later, united Jerusalem, as Israel's capital and considered null and void all the Israeli measures aimed at changing the city's legal status and all settlement activities were considered illegal.

Israel insists in maintaining sovereignty based on biblical religious rights and a selective historical narrative. Israel categorically rejects the provisions of international law and passed a Basic Law regarding Jerusalem on July 29, 1980 stating: "Jerusalem, complete and united, is the capital of Israel".

The issue of sovereignty was discussed in the Camp David II talks in 2000. Progress was made to bridge the gap between the two conflicting positions based on the Clinton Parameters, proposing Palestinian sovereignty over Palestinian neighbourhoods and Israeli sovereignty over Israeli settlements. It seems that the talks failed mainly on the issue of sovereignty over Al-Haram Al-Sharif, the Holy Sanctuary, as noted earlier.

However, a decade had passed since then. Increased settlement expansion in Jerusalem (37% only since the Annapolis process started) jeopardizes the possibility to apply the Clinton parameters.

Moreover, Jewish extremist groups are posing a great danger in sharing sovereignty in their colonization fever and especially by calling for the destruction of the Haram Al-Sharif and the building of the Third Temple in its place.

II.4. Borders

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) regards East Jerusalem as occupied territory according to the Security Council Resolution 242. The whole of Jerusalem is subject to permanent status negotiations, which will result in a Palestinian State exercising sovereignty over the Eastern part of the city along the pre-1967 borders. In the process of negotiations, the Palestinian side expressed readiness for minor swap of territories, equal in quality and quantity, as long as these do not harm Palestinian priorities and interests.

In the Annapolis negotiations, extensive negotiations were conducted on borders. Then US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Ehud Olmert, the former Israeli Prime Minister, did recognize the pre-1967 border line as the basis for negotiating a final agreement. The progress made, though not final, was duly documented for further follow-up.

Unfortunately Benjamin Netanyahu, the current Prime Minister of Israel, in power for the last two years, would not recognize the negotiations conducted earlier and halted all progress by insisting to pursue settlement expansion with emphasis on East Jerusalem against the unanimous request to the contrary from the whole world.

Borders are a key question to any future agreement regarding the two-State solution. This is what the Palestinian negotiators hoped to conclude in the first part of the negotiations. Once agreed upon, they will provide a default basic agreement on Jerusalem, settlements, sovereignty and the control of water resources.

III. Overcoming the Ongoing Impasse

III.1. The way forward

To overcome these hurdles, it is time for the international community to translate its policy and position into concrete action and deliver on its responsibilities and commitments according to international law. The Palestinian question is an outcome of an international decision and can only be solved in the framework of international legitimacy.

To start with, meaningful negotiations and a meaningful peace is still possible if the international community would simply impose on Israel three conditions parallel to those imposed on the Hamas Movement since 2006 and on the PLO prior to its recognition of Israel in 1988: 1- Israel must recognize the Palestinian State within the 1967 borders; 2- Israel must denounce and stop all violence; and 3- Israel must accept international law.

III.2. A Palestinian Plan

The Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas, proposed a number of consecutive alternatives that can bring about a breakthrough in the peace process by next September for the opening session of the United Nations General Assembly:

- 1- First, a resumption and successful conclusion of the final status negotiations and the signing of an accord, which is very unlikely;
- 2- If not, the Palestinian side expects the international community to deliver on its promises by a decision at the Security Council to recognize the Palestinian State within the pre-1967 borders as a member of the United Nations;
- 3- If this fails, then the General Assembly should hold a 'Uniting for Peace' session as it did for General Assembly Resolution 337 of 1950, to exercise its responsibility to maintain international peace and security. The General Assembly should also adopt practical measures to end the occupation in all the territories occupied in 1967, provide international protection to the Palestinian population and recognize Palestine as a full member of the UN.

The Palestinian Authority, by September, will conclude its readiness for statehood and will do all that is necessary in the face of difficult realities imposed by Israel, to persist until the establishment of the state.

The end of occupation should be eminent.

IV. The Horizon Opens: opportunities

In spite of the difficulties, lack of Israeli political will, the complacency of many, we meet at an interesting juncture. There are forces at play that could converge and bring about opportunities to advance stability and a just peace for Jerusalem, Palestinians and the region.

IV.1. The changing geo-political realities in the region

The revolutions in the Middle East, people's dire fight for liberty and democracy, their call for reforms and responsible governance, their holding on religious beliefs while celebrating diversity, and their placing of the human being at the centre of civic and political life, will change dramatically the face of the region. They so well project the values that Jerusalem, the Holy City, stands for, the same values that drive our modern civilization based on democracy and human rights.

These revolutions will succeed, the question is how soon. They should well be supported by all. Their implications for the region shall be tremendous. It will unleash tremendous stifled potential and change the geo-political balance that would force on all to deal more seriously with the region and its people. Double standards cannot be maintained, neither any privileged status to Israel for total impunity, nor excuses for a continued status quo based on the threat of terrorism and fundamentalism.

While we can rightly argue that Palestine is not the motor for these revolutions, and it should not be, it is safe to say that Jerusalem, Judaised, de-Palestinised, humiliated, dispossessed, is a strong symbol for all the Arab and Moslem people in their search for dignity and freedom.

VI. 2. American Unilateralism versus Multilateralism

The last American veto at the Security Council regarding settlements is more proof that the US is not able to pursue its own policies in the region mainly because of the highly skewed influence of the pro-Israel lobby.

This veto stands in total contradiction to the United States' clear and explicit stance that settlement expansion is a major obstacle to peace in the region, and threatens America's own security and strategic interests.

This situation is neither normal nor sustainable especially in a more complicated global context, namely the financial crisis and its aftermath, the Iraqi and Afghan wars, and the new multi-polar world with emerging powers and increased challenges to America itself.

The European Union (EU), which has sustained the Palestinian Authority financially since 1993, wants to see that this support brings about peace and wants to play a political role. An EU statement in December 2009 clearly indicates the status of East Jerusalem as occupied territory, exactly the same like the West Bank and Gaza. In its report on the political and humanitarian situation in East Jerusalem, the EU calls on all members States to take concrete action in order to ensure that the peace process progresses concretely towards peace.

The rest of the world, more than 120 countries so far, and important country groups, among them Latin American countries recognized a Palestinian State within the pre-1967 borders.

These developments prepare the way for multilateral action in support of a just peace through the United Nations.

Civil Society around the world should be very much alert and present, especially in the next few months, to push for a leading role by the United Nations. **"Uniting for Peace" (UPP)** should make a good slogan for a major advocacy, communication and lobbying campaign in this regard.

V. Conclusion

The above important developments disarm Israel from the main excuses it had used over decades to control East Jerusalem illegally, to impose its own jurisdiction on occupied territory and to justify its settlement and expulsion policies against the Palestinians in their own city.

1. Israel will not be able to continue claiming itself as the only democracy in the region and hence a natural ally of the west (meaning US and Europe) against the so to speak 'Barbarian' Arabs.
2. Non-violence as a mode of resistance is gaining ground especially in light of the Arab Spring and hopefully will stop the cycle of violence that we knew for so long. This brings about a new emphasis on humanist values that places all human beings at the centre of policy. Denis Sieffert, a French journalist, argues that the Arab Spring announces the end of the era of the "war on terror". Let's certainly hope so.
3. The biased US support stands a good chance of changing in order to serve the interests of Americans. Merged with the political will to push the peace process forward by the EU and other country opens new horizons and can create a real opportunity to move towards peace."
4. I would also like to add that thanks to archaeological findings and historical research, we can look more objectively at the real history of the region. It is time for all parties to make an effort in adopting a real historical inclusive narrative for the region rather than the exclusive Israeli and colonialist religious narrative that was used so extensively to justify the Zionist expansionist programme. The region, as the cultural and religious cradle of our civilization, deserves this new fascinating narrative to be known, taught and promoted. This honesty towards our common heritage especially in the Middle East, the cradle of civilization, is a duty and a necessity. In addition, this is one best way to fight fanaticism and ideological violence.

Now is the time to make real the promise of peace based on justice and the universal application of the rule of law without exception, without the Israeli exception.

Israel cannot be allowed to maintain its occupation of Jerusalem and the OPT endlessly. It should not be allowed to condemn the peace process. It is your duty, the duty of the international community with its civil society, to see to it that the status quo

changes, that the peace process concludes with peace, and that human rights are universally respected.

The time is ripe for the conclusion of peace based on a two-State solution. The opportunities are presenting themselves. We need to make sure we grab them.

It is time that time, resources and efforts be invested in real development. The construction of the Peace of Jerusalem is an elevation of man to his true humanity. It is justice due to all.

Thank you.

Fact Sheet

Expulsion of the East Jerusalem Palestinians from their city
(Statistics and legal background are taken from the reports of the Jerusalem Center for social and Economic Rights.)

Palestinian Jerusalemites held as HOSTAGES

Israel continues the expulsion of Palestinians from their city in East Jerusalem unabated and in flagrant violations of international law and the condemnation of the international community. Action is required to stop these violations immediately and stop holding the Palestinian Jerusalemites hostages to a political process to end the occupation that has no end in sight. We hence expect responsible action to stop all deportations from our city, revoking of residency rights and denial of family unification.

The latest threat:

Today, 817 Palestinian citizens that Israel defines as illegal dwellers of the city risk deportation. These mainly include wives, husbands, children or parents holders of West Bank Palestinian passports and hence denied residency permits to join their families in East Jerusalem and find themselves living illegally in the city (please review the attached letters – in Hebrew for now-).

In 2007 the Israeli Ministry of Interior invited all residents who live illegally in the city according to Israeli Jurisdiction to request permits. Since then 31 persons were granted such permits leaving the others totally exposed to expulsion measures any moment. This measure applies the Israeli occupation military order no. 1650 "order regarding prevention of infiltration" (Amendment no 2) which entered into effect on April 13, 2010. According to the law any 'infiltrator' in Jerusalem might be fined and sent to jail for 7 years.

Endless expulsion measures

During the 43 years of occupation Israel pursued a soft version of an expulsion policy towards Palestinians (versus the direct expulsion of 1948 to create the state of Israel) living in the Palestinian Territory occupied in 1967 and especially in East Jerusalem which was totally annexed to Israel since 1967. Israel succeeded in implementing these policies under the cover of geo-political measures and local laws and regulations with very harsh social, political, psychological and economic consequences to the Palestinian population of the city and in denial of their most basic rights. Israel is taking **exceeding liberties** in the dispossession and expulsion of the Palestinian Jerusalemites:

- **For seven months now, and since 1 July 2010, three Jerusalemite deputies and elected officials of the Palestinian Legislative Council, Mr. Khalid Abu Arafah, Mohammad Atoun and Mohammad Imran Totah with the former being also a former minister of the Palestinian Authority, took asylum at the office of the International Red Cross offices in East Jerusalem to avoid actual deportation from their city. A fourth elected official, Mr. Mousa Abu Teir was actually deported to Ramallah.**
- **Mr. Adnan Geith, a Fatah representative in the neighborhood of Silwan, was deported from the city for his activism against the huge home demolition wave pursued by the Israeli Jerusalem Municipality in his neighborhood.**
- **The child Islam Salah Ayyoub Dar Ayoub, 14 years old, from Nabi Saleh and imprisoned in Ofer Prison, risk to be deported to Ramallah away from his family, school and immediate environment.**
- **Israel excluded 125,000 Palestinian Jerusalem holders from direct access to their city by living in neighborhoods of EJ that fall outside the apartheid wall that aims to isolate East Jerusalem from its natural extension into the West Bank.**

- **Since 1967, Israel revoked the residency rights of 14,383 Palestinian Jerusalemite (4,672 persons in 2008 alone). Many more risk having these rights revoked once they spend years studying or working abroad. Obtaining a foreign passport does not guarantee the capacity for these Jerusalemites to ever visit or return to their city.**
- **The city professionals and graduates (the middle class) lack employment opportunities in EJ being an isolated city with a declining economy and find employment especially in Ramallah. These persons whose center of life is outside the city lose their rights of residency according to the Israeli law and it is a matter of time when their residency rights shall be revoked.**
- **Approximately 10,000 children are living in East Jerusalem without being registered in their parents Identity Cards. The proposition of such children who cannot register at public schools or receive medical care due to their non registration is estimated to be 23.6%.**

Legal Background

- Art. 15 (1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights reads that "no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality."
- The International Court of Justice in its 2004 Advisory Opinion on the Legal Consequences of the Construction of Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, it reaffirmed that under customary international law, East Jerusalem is occupied territory in which Israel has the status of Occupying Power.
- On November 22, 1967, the UN SC passed resolution 242 which emphasized the "inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war" and called for the withdrawal of "Israel armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict" and "the termination of all claims or states of belligerency."
- The international community has rejected Israel's claim to both West and East Jerusalem as its "eternal undivided capital" and has consistently denounced Israeli attempts to change the status of the city.
- UN Security Council resolutions: 242, 252, 253, 254, 267, 298 and UN General Assembly resolutions: 2253 2254 do not recognize the illegal Israeli annexation of the city and consider it as null and void.
- Jerusalem is hence defined as an occupied city according to international law, and has therefore its population protected by the 1949 fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of civilian Persons in Times of War, which strictly forbids expulsion of individuals from the occupied populations as well as separation of family members, under any circumstances.
- In addition to the violations of International Law, Israel expulsion policies and measures represent collective punishment and racial discrimination.
Israel illegally imposes its own jurisdiction on East Jerusalem
- According to Israeli Nationality Law of 1952, Jerusalemites were considered "permanent residents in Israel and not citizens."
- Article 11 (a) of the provisions of the entry to Israel Law stipulates that permanent residency is forfeited when its holder lives in a foreign country for seven years, which includes Palestinians living outside the municipal borders of Jerusalem as delineated by the Israeli authorities. In Israel, foreign spouses who are Jewish are automatically granted citizenship under the Law of Return.
- On 31 July 2003, Israeli Knesset adopted the Temporary Order of the law on family reunification – Nationality and Entry into Israeli Law, which stops Palestinians who do not

have Israeli residency or citizenship from uniting with their spouses who have East Jerusalemite or Israeli citizenship status.

Necessary Action

For 43 years, the international community has in fact allowed Israel to proceed and amplify its occupation and to continue its dispossession and expulsion policies of the Palestinian people under occupation especially in Occupied East Jerusalem.

While the international community issues statements to condemn, deplore or regret such measures, no effective action or measure was taken to stop these flagrant violations and the dire hardships imposed on the Palestinian people including Palestinian Jerusalemites. The Report on the situation in East Jerusalem prepared by the representative of the EU countries, prepared yearly since 2005, but neither published officially nor pursued, is a stark example.

It is no longer acceptable, nor bearable for the Palestinian Jerusalemite to be held hostages of Israeli dispossession and expulsion measures while the peace process, ongoing since 2 decades, shows no sign of any end in sight.

We demand that each country member of the International Community and in respect of its own obligations under international law, its declared statements and the simple respect of our shared humanity to immediately take all necessary actions, measures and pressure to force Israel to cancel all deportation orders and all measures to revoke residency rights, to provide family unification permits and return the identity cards of all those who lost it.

We request the support and action to our legitimate demands be pursued by civil society around the world and all lovers of freedom and justice for all peoples.
