



Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

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Address of

H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani,

Secretary General of the

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

on the

Occasion of the International Day for

Solidarity with the Palestinian People

UN Headquarters – New York

24 November, 2014

Honourable Representative of the UN Secretary General

Excellency, Ambassador Fodé Seck, Chairman of the

Committee on the Palestinian People's Exercise of their Inalienable Rights

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This international gathering is held each year to commemorate the international day for Solidarity with the Palestinian people, in conformity with the resolution issued by the UN General Assembly, to underscore the responsibility of the international community towards the Palestinian cause, and with the collective commitment to support the Palestinian people's rights and aspirations. On this occasion, I am pleased to express our deep appreciation to the United Nations Organization and all its organs, particularly the Committee on the Palestinian People's Exercise of their Inalienable Rights, for their effective and unrelenting efforts in favour of the cause of Palestine, and in promoting international solidarity and support for the Palestinian people and their legitimate national rights.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our meeting today takes place in a decisive historical context in the record of the Palestinian cause. As a matter of fact, despite the international consensus on recognizing the Palestinian State at the UN General Assembly since November 26th, 2012, Israel, the occupation force, still continues to undermine every opportunity that comes around, so as to abort the forward progress of any serious negotiations, through its persistent aggressive policies in the shape of constructing and expanding settlements, tearing down homes, confiscating land and judeizing the occupied Al Quds/Jerusalem, in addition to its refusal to accept of the Arab Peace Initiative and other international references as a basis for the achievement of peace.

Furthermore, Israel, the occupation power, is persisting in its policy of imposing new faits accomplis to transfigure the demographic character of the occupied Holy City of Al Quds/Jerusalem, altering its identity, aggressing its Islamo-Christian sanctuaries, and attempting to isolate it from its Palestinian natural environment, thus violating international law and relevant international legitimacy resolutions.

whilst we at the OIC, strongly warn against these grave Israeli inadmissible exactions against the sanctuaries in the Holy City of Al-Quds/Jerusalem, including their incursions and desecration in the blessed mosque of Al-Aqsa, their aggressions against the worshipers inside the mosque's courtyards, the closure of the Mosque's gates, and the

various attempts to enact illegitimate laws to impose the Israeli rule over it, a provocative act which stirs the feelings of the entire Islamic Ummah, we hereby affirm that such aggressions could foreshadow an overspilling of the conflict into a religious dimension that could have disastrous repercussions on the entire region's security and stability, which therefore calls for an international and responsible intervention to compel Israel to stop these aggressions and to ensure their non-recurrence.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Israeli continuation of settlement construction and expansion on the territories of Palestine occupied since 1967, is a blatant defiance of the international will, constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and relevant conventions, agreements and international legitimacy resolutions, and represents a manifest aggression on the rights of the Palestinian people to their land. In this respect, we call upon the Security Council to rise up to its responsibility and take a firm decision to put an end to this perpetuated crime, and compel Israel to abide by the Peace Process references, for, its failure to honour them could only lead to prolonging the conflict, the absence of stability and the fading away of the "Two-state solution".

Again, we reiterate here that the illegal continuation of the Israeli siege on the Gaza Strip constitutes, not only a persistent injustice and aggression, but also a collective punishment and a flagrant violation of universal humanitarian law, resulting in serious humanitarian fallouts. We stress here the need to end the Israeli siege and to expedite the implementation of the international commitments in order to ensure the start of the rehabilitation work and the alleviation of the humanitarian ordeal endured by the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

On this occasion, the OIC renews its call for an early meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva IV Convention of 1949, to take practical and affective resolution to ensure the Convention's application to the occupied Palestinian territories including Eastern Al-Quds/Jerusalem, particularly in light of the UN General Assembly's decision to recognize Palestine since 29 November, 2012, and Palestine's accession to a number of international agreements and conventions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The OIC has consistently held up its firm stands in terms of providing absolute support to the Palestinians' legitimate rights and backing up all international efforts aimed at reaching a just and comprehensive solution to this central issue, on the basis of respect for the UN resolutions as well as for the principles of international law and relevant international agreements. However, the challenges imposed by the Israeli occupation call now, more than ever before, for a firm and effective international move commensurate with the gravity of the developments and the size of the responsibility placed on the

international community's shoulders as to the need to reinforce the foundations of peace, security and stability in the region and to lift the ongoing and historical injustice still being meted upon the Palestinian people. In this respect, the OIC reiterates here the need for the international community to rise up to its responsibility and help achieve a radical solution to the Palestinian issue, by lending its support to a Security Council resolution that sets a timeframe for ending the Israeli occupation in conformity with UN resolutions and agreed international references.

In conclusion, allow me to avail of this opportunity to reiterate the OIC's full support and solidarity with the Palestinian people in their drive to recover their inalienable national rights, including their right to the consecration of their sovereignty over their independent State on the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967, with Al-Quds/Jerusalem as its capital, and the achievement of a just solution for the issue of the Palestinian refugees in accordance with UN resolution no: 194.

Thank you.