

**MESSAGE OF
HIS MAJESTY SULTAN HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH MU'IZZADDIN WADDAULAH,
SULTAN AND YANG DI-PERTUAN OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY
WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE
29TH NOVEMBER 2017**

On this day of solidarity, the Government and the people of Brunei Darussalam, join me in reaffirming our strong support for the Palestinian people and their legitimate right to self-determination.

This year, we solemnly mark fifty years of the illegal occupation of Palestine. The rights of the Palestinian people to enjoy peace and development have long been denied and hence, there remains an urgent need to address the increasingly dire situation. We must remain persistent in our efforts to achieve a two-State solution, in line with international law and relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Brunei Darussalam is deeply concerned by the deteriorating conditions as a result of continued aggressive policies of Israel, the Occupying Power, including the expansion of illegal settlements in the occupied territories, especially the West Bank. This is evidently a total disregard of international law and all UN resolutions concerned. We join the international community in calling for an end to all illegal settlement activities which have prolonged the suffering of Palestinians and hindered efforts towards a just and lasting solution.

Over the years, we have observed growing recognition of the State of Palestine including its non-member observer state status in the UN, membership to the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and most recently, to the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). It is imperative to build on these achievements and translate the international recognition of the State of Palestine into real positive changes on the ground.

Overall, what we hope to see is an improvement in the daily lives of the Palestinian people. At the same time, Brunei Darussalam appreciates the strong commitment of the UN Secretary-General, and relevant UN agencies in addressing the plight of the Palestinian people. We continue to support these efforts and those of the international community towards the realisation of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine.

**SULTAN HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH
OF BRUNEI**