

**MESSAGE
OF
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
H.E. JOKO WIDODO
ON
THE OCCASION OF THE OBSERVANCE
OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY
WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**

NEW YORK, 29 NOVEMBER 2017

On this solemn occasion of the 2017 International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, affords me to reaffirm the unwavering support and age-long solidarity of the people and the Government of Indonesia for the legitimate and sacred quest of our Palestinian brothers and sisters for the full realization of their inalienable rights, including their right to self-determination and an independent and sovereign State of Palestine.

Indonesia takes pride in standing at the forefront of support for the historic march of the Palestinian people towards independence.

We start this year with a positive momentum.

Starting with the achievement of the UN Security Council in adopting Resolution 2334 (2016) on December 23rd, where the Security Council requests the cease of illegal settlement in the Occupied Palestine Territory.

Then, 70 Foreign Ministers convened together in Paris to declare peace in the Middle East through a two-state solution. The Foreign Ministers vow to establish partnerships and create incentives to reach this Peace and assist Palestine to achieve their statehood.

This year also sees the inauguration of a new UN Secretary General after a decade. The new UN Leader has established his vision to reach political solution to resolve the conflict in the Middle East.

Moreover, last month we witnessed history in Cairo, where after one decade Hamas and Fattah finally reconciled. The reconciliation is an important step towards the full unification of the two parties in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which signifies a new hope for the peace process in the Middle East through a unified Palestine.

Indonesia warmly welcomes and respects the decision by the people of Palestine on the leadership of the State. As an ardent supporter of the Palestinian struggle, Indonesia supports the reconciliation and stands ready to assist efforts to implement the reconciliation in the future.

Even with these positive momentums, the Palestinian People are still denied their inalienable rights.

In July 2017, Israel implemented the unilateral policy to restrict access to Al-Aqsa Mosque.

This policy triggered violence in East Jerusalem.

This policy pushed back positive momentum we have achieved this year.

This policy must be lifted.

On this International Day, therefore, I wish to reassert Indonesia's strong support for the dignity of all Palestinians, and for the validity of their inalienable rights despite the pain of years of their deprivation.

Indonesia also strongly urges the international community to renew its commitment to assist the Palestinian people in realizing their ultimate dreams for peace and statehood.

With regards to the situation in Al-Aqsa Mosque, Indonesia calls for all party to maintain peace in East Jerusalem and place Palestine, especially the Al-Aqsa Mosque Complex under International Protection.

To that end, I once again reiterate Indonesia's call for the implementation of all United Nations' resolutions concerning Palestine, and urge a swift and unhindered return to the political process to ensure the end of Israeli occupation in Palestinian territory.

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA,

Sgd.

JOKO WIDODO