

Statement by
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Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
the Islamic Republic of Iran *Delivered by*
on *Dep. Ambassador*

The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people
Vienna, 29 November 2017

Mr. Chairman,

It is a great pleasure to address this important meeting on the occasion of “the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People”. I would like to express my delegation’s appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, for convening this meeting. I would also like to thank the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for its important work in promoting the cause of the Palestinian people.

Mr. Chairman,

The annual occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people creates an ample opportunity to renew our commitment to a just, comprehensive and lasting solution for the

question of Palestine. The Islamic Republic of Iran fully supports the observance of this important day, as it provides an occasion every year to reflect on the situation of the continued unfortunate occupation, which has deprived the Palestinian people from their basic rights including the right to self determination, and subjected them to untold pain and suffering for many decades.

In this context, we express our profound concerns on the worsening situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular, the escalation of violence against the people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the ongoing dire humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip due to continued blockade and economic embargo, the destructive impact of successive military aggressions and other inhumane acts such as frequent military raids, including raids on homes and school premises during classroom hours, exploitation of the natural resources of Palestine by the Israeli regime, which deliberately denies Palestinians right to permanent sovereignty over their natural resources and their right to development.

Mr. Chairman,

The illegal land and sea blockade of Gaza, which entered its tenth year in 2016, must be lifted and all crossing points must be opened promptly and unconditionally. Further in this regard, all practices that

amount to collective punishment, including restrictions on freedom of movement across the Occupied Palestinian Territory, demolitions of homes, residency revocations, cutting of benefits, closures of towns and delays in returning bodies for burial should be ended.

It is clear that all measures and activities, by the Israeli regime in the Palestinian territory, including in and around Occupied East Jerusalem, are in grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention and various UN resolutions. All such measures and activities, including the settlement construction, the exploitation of natural resources, demolition of homes, forced displacement of Palestinian civilians, the arrest and detention of Palestinians, and so on are illegal under international law—therefore they must be ceased immediately and without further delay.

Mr. Chairman,

According to the report of the OHCHR, contained in UN General Assembly document A/71/364, practices such as collective punishment by the Israeli regime continued during the last year. These practices clearly violate a range of human rights which amounts to war crime in accordance with international humanitarian law.

Other issues of grave concern are, but not limited to, persistent extreme violence, terror and provocations by Israeli settlers and extremists, including at the holy sites in Occupied East Jerusalem, particularly at Al-Aqsa Mosque, discrimination against the Palestinians

and lack of accountability in the justice system. These inhumane behaviors have worsened conditions on the ground, further destabilizing the situation and exacerbating high tensions. We believe that it is long overdue to end this abhorrent Israeli regime occupation, which has brought so much sufferings and pains to the Palestinian people, and continues to be the most destabilizing factor that clearly threatens international peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my Government's unwavering and full support for the Palestinian people in their rightful and legitimate struggle against the occupation and for their just quest for exercise of their right to self-determination. While expressing our full solidarity with the Palestinian people, the Islamic Republic of Iran firmly believes that the solution to the question of Palestine requires a comprehensive approach, including seriously addressing the root causes of this crisis. We are also of the belief that a durable peace is only achievable if any solution consists of realization of the legitimate rights of the people of Palestine, including through putting an end to occupation, return of the Palestinian people to their homeland and establishing an independent Palestinian country with Al-Quds al-Sharif as its capital.

Thank You,