

Message on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People 29 November 2018

On this International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, I reaffirm on behalf of the people of Sri Lanka, sincere commitment and steadfast support for the Palestinian cause.

Over 70 long years have passed since the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted Resolution 181 in 1947. Yet, the passage of time has still not resolved the Question of Palestine. A sovereign, independent and united State of Palestine co-existing peacefully with Israel, still eludes us.

Sri Lanka yearns to see the negotiated, peaceful settlement of issues through a political process that will realize a two-state solution. The resolution of this issue will undoubtedly create the necessary momentum for greater stability and security throughout the region.

It pains human conscience to witness the cycle of violence that persists, affecting the most vulnerable and impacting on the human rights of all. Despite all the difficulties that are being endured by the Palestine people, it heartens us to note their resolute spirit and strength of purpose to keep striving to gain their legitimate rights.

People around the world support a negotiated settlement that would make peace a possibility for the people of Palestine. We hope that their strength and spirit of goodwill will assist the people of Palestine to work together to preserve national unity, while working towards a negotiated settlement. We take this opportunity to pray for wisdom and prudence to guide the people of Palestine in their quest.

I take this opportunity to reaffirm Sri Lanka's support for Palestine's application for admission to full membership in the United Nations.

Maithripala Sirisena

October 11, 2018

