

WE'VE FESTERED A D

THE MOST

UNIVERSAL

NATIONAL

CAUSE



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Palestine:

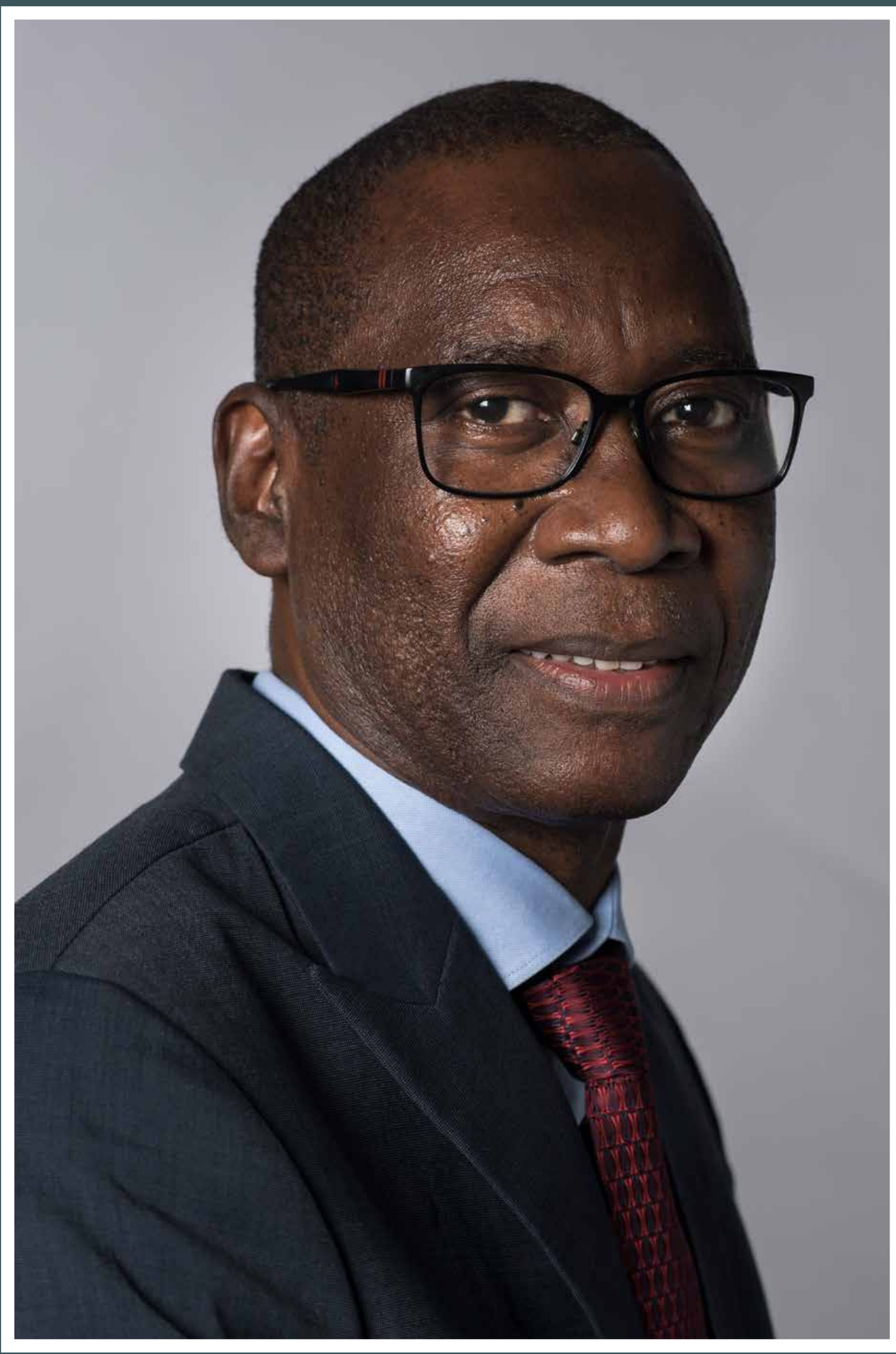
The most universal national cause

For the past 70 years, the Palestinian people have been denied their right to self-determination and statehood. Their cause has found its way to the hearts and minds of millions of people around the world who have in common the rejection of the injustice the Palestinian people continue to endure, through dispossession and displacement, occupation and oppression.

The Palestinian people draw their own epic resilience from this international solidarity, further deepening the universal character of the Palestinian struggle, which echoes the struggle for freedom and dignity across history and geography.

This exhibit, through the words of selected figures, explores the roots of this solidarity and its worldwide span. It also honors the millions of anonymous people who have found a multitude of ways to express their solidarity with the Palestinian people and their just cause, sometimes at the expense of their lives.

Exhibit organized by the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations and the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People



UN Photo/Mark Garten

CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE CHEIKH NIANG

“ The Palestinian people continue to pursue the realization of their inalienable rights and the pledge for an independent and sovereign State reflected in resolution 181. We have no alternative but to fulfill our historic obligations to allow the Palestinian people to take their rightful place, alongside the Israeli people, among the community of Nations. ”

Remarks on the International
Day of Solidarity with the
Palestinian People,
28 November 2018

SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS ANTÓNIO GUTERRES

“ More than forty years ago, the General Assembly established an International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People to remind us of our collective, unfinished task of resolving the question of Palestine... On this International Day of Solidarity, let us reaffirm our commitment to upholding the rights of the Palestinian people and to building a future of peace, justice, security and dignity for Palestinians and Israelis alike. ”



UN Photo/Mark Garten

Remarks on the International
Day of Solidarity with the
Palestinian People,
28 November 2018

Nelson Mandela

Universal symbol of freedom, former President of South Africa, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate



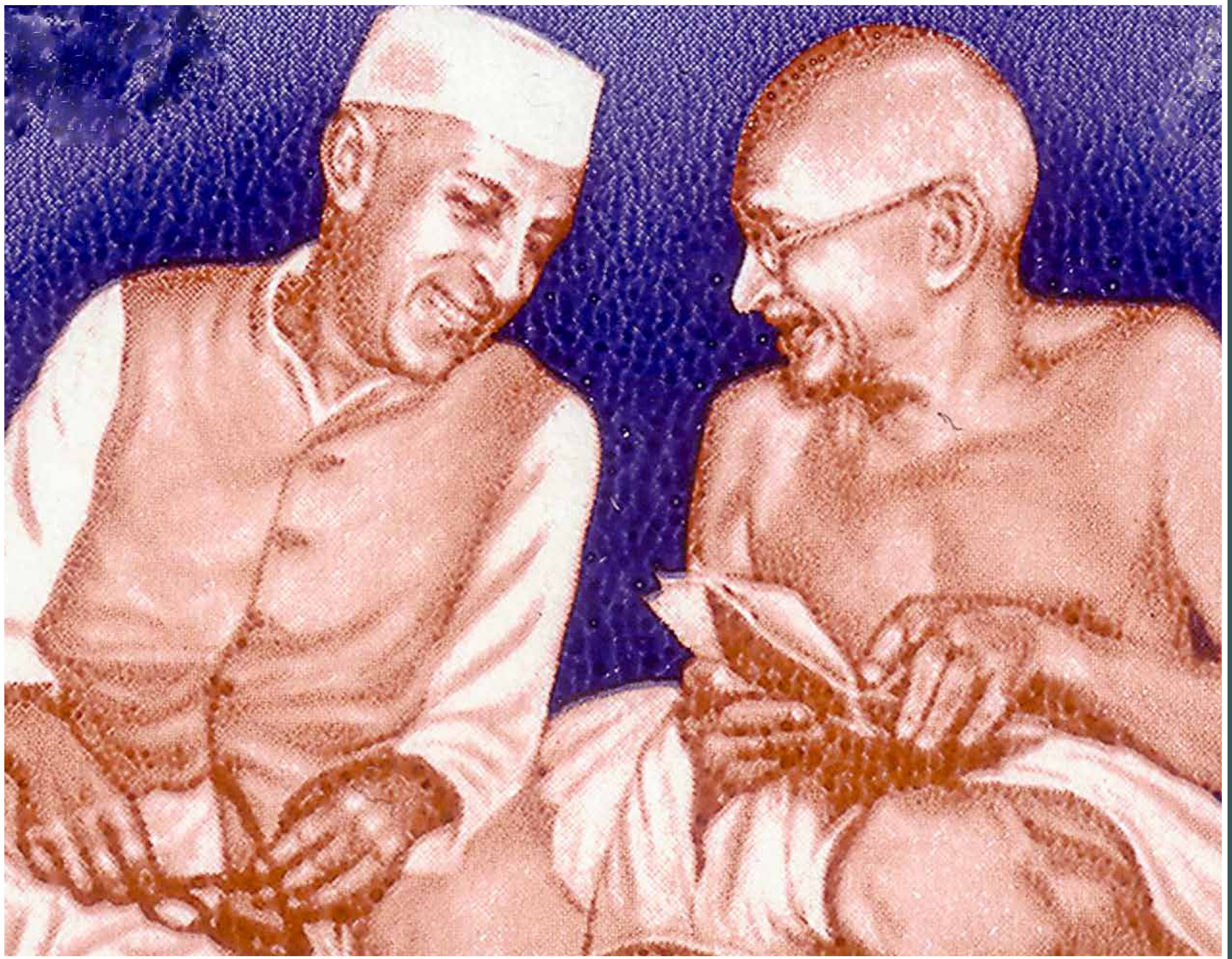
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“
We know too well that our freedom
is incomplete without the freedom
of the Palestinians.”

Speech in Pretoria in 1997 on the occasion of the International
Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

Jawaharlal Nehru

A leader of the Indian independence movement, political heir to Gandhi and first Prime Minister of independent India



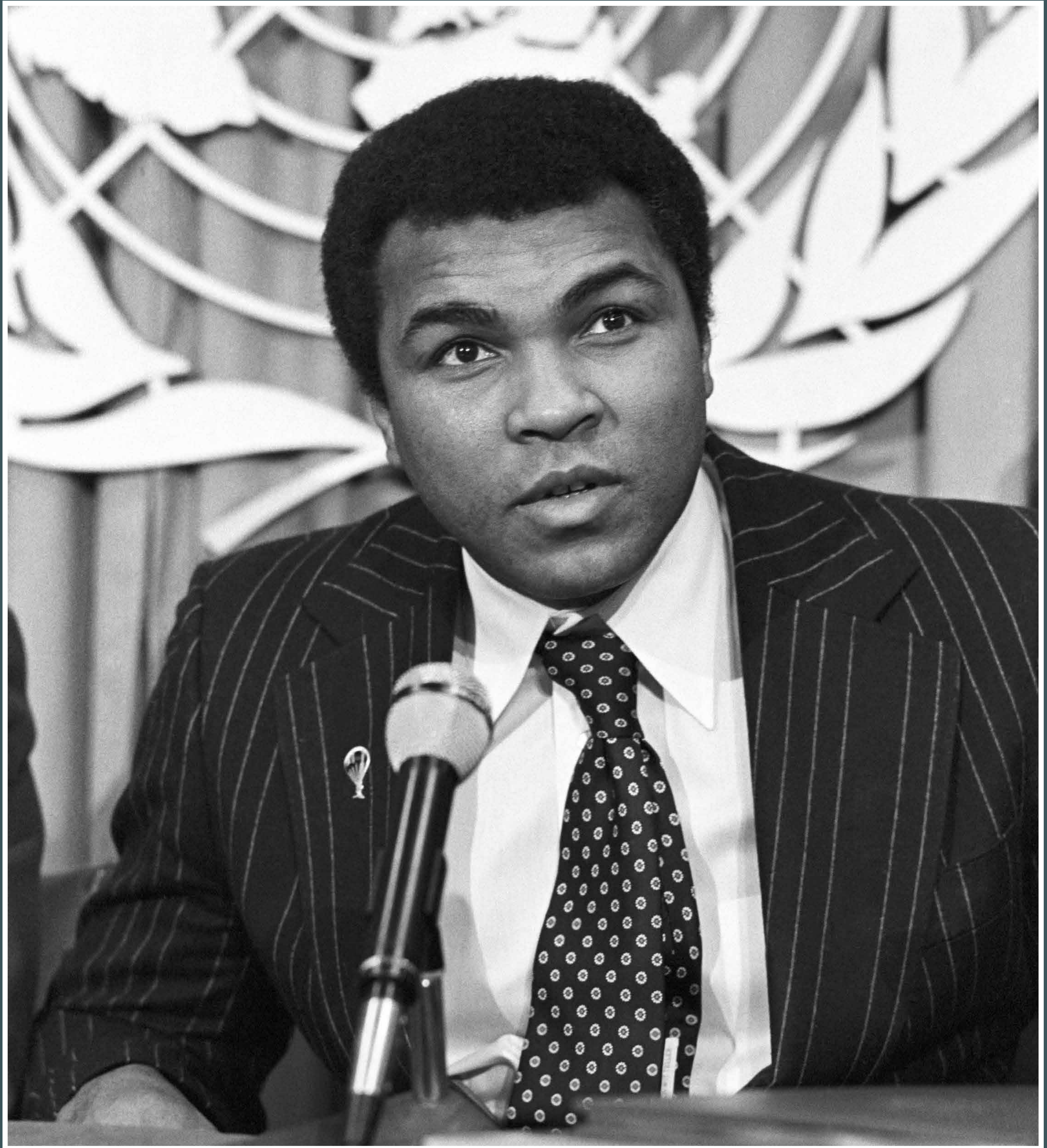
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“ Palestine was not a wilderness, or an empty, uninhabited place. It was already somebody else’s home. ”

In a letter to Einstein, echoing Gandhi, in 1947

Muhammad Ali

The greatest boxer of all time and renowned athlete



UN Photo/Milton Grant

“
I declare support for the Palestinian
struggle to liberate their homeland.”

In a statement after a visit to two Palestinian refugee camps
in southern Lebanon in 1975

Jimmy Carter

Former President of the United States, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate



UN Photo/Ryan Brown

“

It will be a tragedy – for the Israelis, the Palestinians, and the world – if peace is rejected and a system of oppression, apartheid, and sustained violence is permitted to prevail.”

From his book *Peace not Apartheid*

Pope Francis

Supreme Pontiff since 2013



© Nour Shamaly/POOL/Flash90

“

It was a very significant way to demonstrate his participation in suffering... It was a profound spiritual moment in front of a symbol of division.”

The Vatican spokesperson, regarding the Pope's decision in 2014 to pray in front of the wall built by Israel, contrary to international law, in the occupied Palestinian territory

Desmond Tutu

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town, Anti-Apartheid Movement figure, former Chair of the Elders, hailed as the world's moral conscience



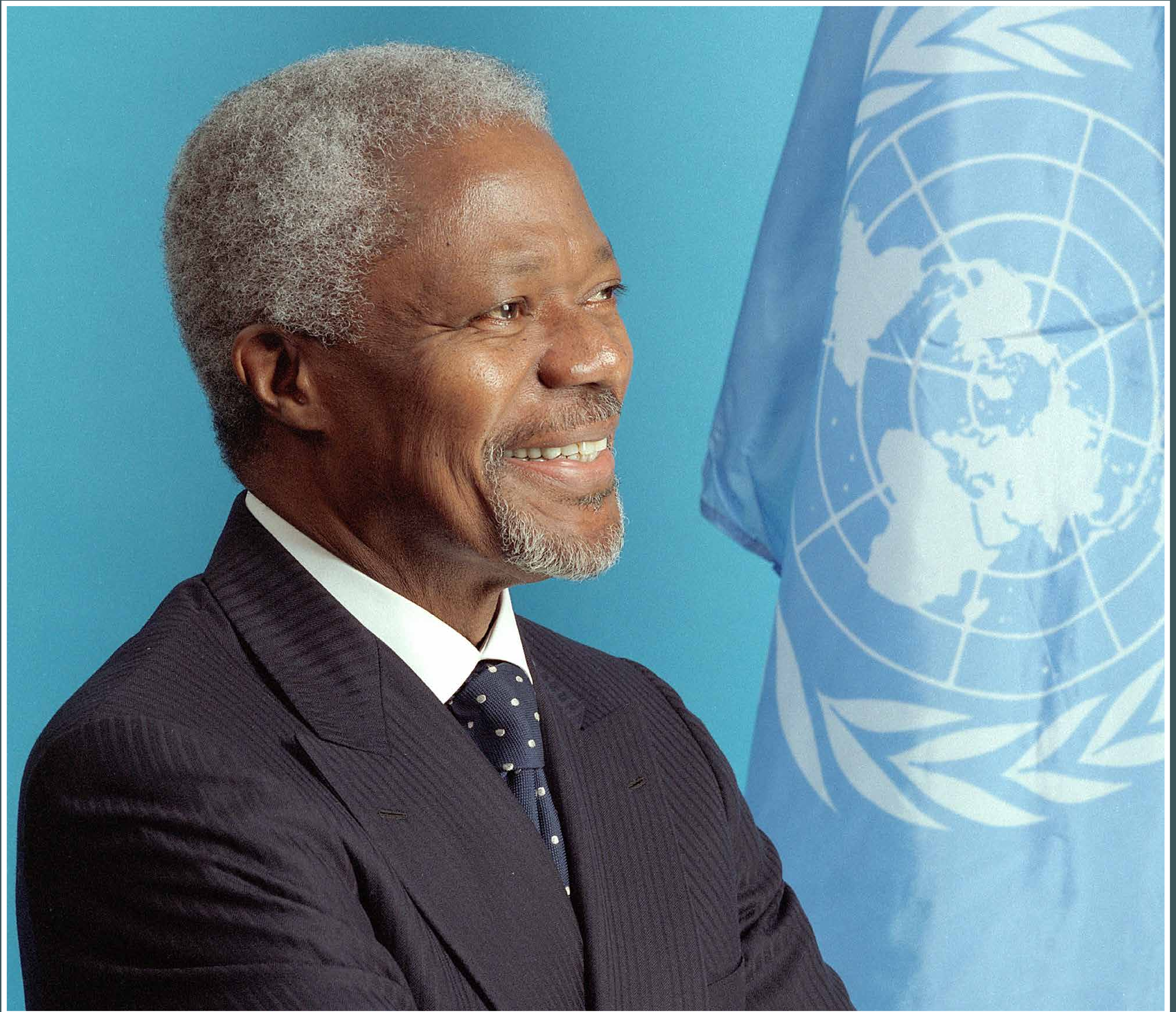
UN Photo/JC McIlwaine

“ I have witnessed the systemic humiliation of Palestinian men, women and children... Their humiliation is familiar to all black South Africans who were corralled and harassed and insulted and assaulted by the security forces of the Apartheid government. ”

Statement at the 10th annual Israel Apartheid Week in South Africa in 2014

Kofi Annan

Former UN Secretary-General, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate,
former Chair of the Elders



UN Photo/Sergey Bermeiev

“
If it does not address the root causes
of the conflict, including historic
dispossession, illegal settlement
expansion, the status of Jerusalem
as a shared capital and the rights of
Palestinian refugees, the deal will
be doomed to failure.”

From an op-ed in the Financial Times regarding the US peace
proposal, July 2018

Malala Yousafzai

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate for her role as an advocate for girls' education at the peril of her life



UN Photo/Mark Garten

“
Innocent Palestinian children have suffered terribly and for too long. We must all work to ensure Palestinian boys and girls, and all children everywhere, receive a quality education in a safe environment. Because without education, there will never be peace.”

Remarks after she donated the World's Children's Prize she received in 2014 to rebuild 83 UNRWA schools in Gaza damaged during Israeli raids

Rachel Corrie

US volunteer in the International Solidarity Movement with Palestine, killed in 2003 at age 23 by an Israeli bulldozer while attempting to stop the demolition of a Palestinian home in Gaza



© Denny Sternstein/AP

“
I feel like what I am witnessing here is the systematic destruction of a people's ability to survive... People's lives are almost completely controlled by the Israeli government. It is amazing that people are able to hold on to their humanity as much as they have.”

In an interview in 2003 with the Middle East Broadcasting network explaining the situation as she witnessed it in the Gaza Strip two days before her death

Avraham Burg

Former Speaker of the Israeli Knesset and former Chair of the Jewish Agency for Israel



UN Photo/Loeey Felipe

“ We cannot keep a Palestinian majority under an Israeli boot and at the same time think ourselves the only democracy in the Middle East. ”

From an op-ed entitled *The end of Zionism*, published in *The Guardian*, September 2003



Photo EP/European Union

Nurit Peled

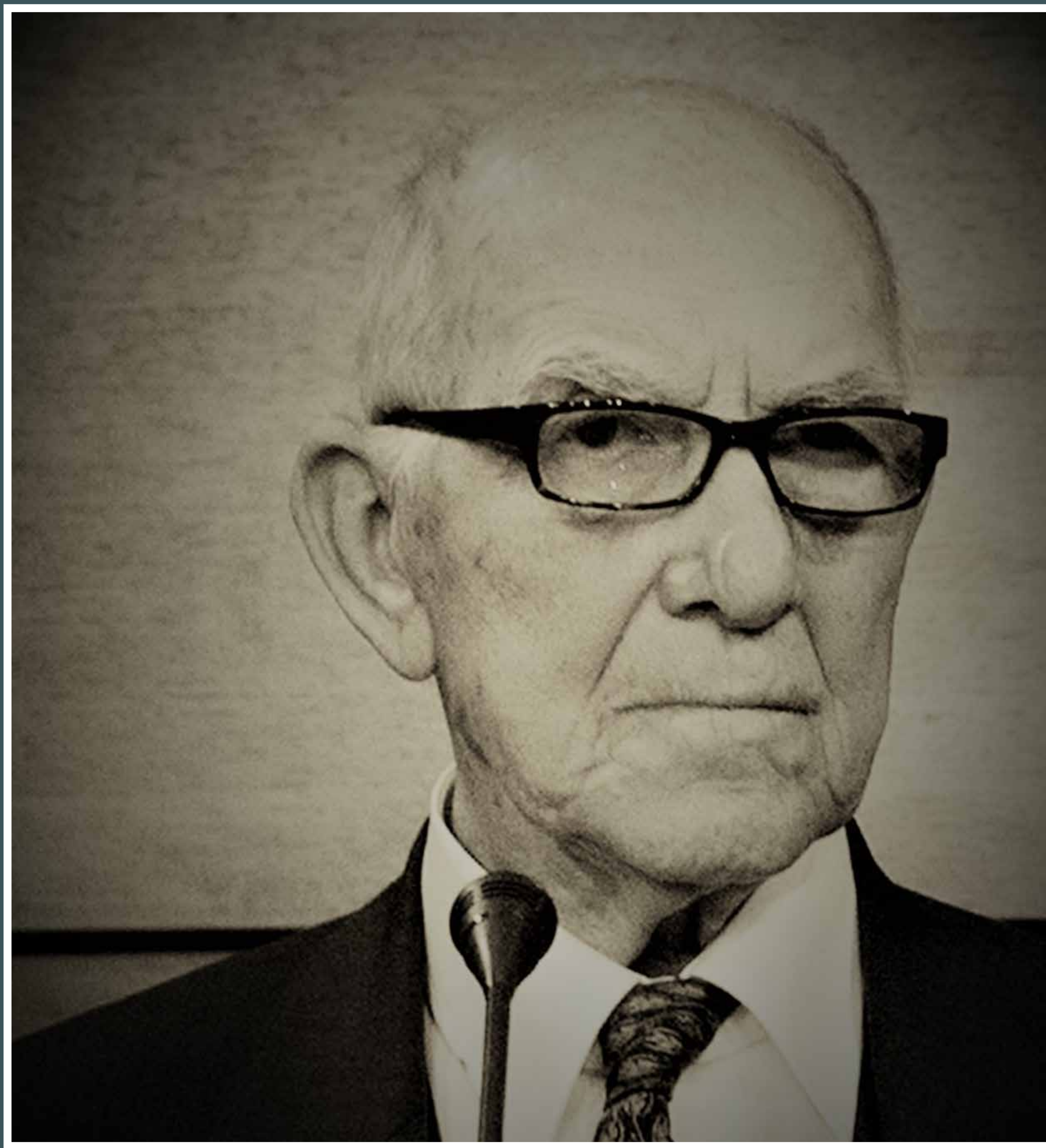
Israeli Professor, Human Rights activist, Laureate of the European Parliament's Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, daughter of Israeli general and peace activist Matti Peled, mother of Smadar Elhanan who was killed in a bombing attack by a Palestinian in 1997.

“ Death placed me in the camp of the victims of the occupation... In my camp there are many more people with keffieh than with a kippa on their head. ”

From her statement at the World Peace Forum in 2006

Stéphane Hessel

French diplomat, figure of the French resistance against Nazism, escaped from Buchenwald concentration camp, best-selling author



© Véronique Vercheval

“ Gaza is an open-air prison for a million and a half Palestinians... Even more than the physical destruction... it is the behavior of the Gazans, their patriotism, their love of the sea and the beach, their constant preoccupation with the well-being of their countless laughing children, that haunts our memories. ”

From Hessel's manifesto entitled *Time for Outrage* published in 2010 that inspired political and social protesters worldwide

Mairead Maguire

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, co-founder of Community for Peace People which led mass marches for reconciliation in Northern Ireland



© peacepeople

“
Palestinian women human rights defenders are an example to us all, showing by their lives how human dignity and equality must be won. [They] are the custodians, carriers and transmitters of the moral and ethical values and standards of what it means to be truly human.”

Statement at the Nobel Women Initiative's Conference entitled *Defending the defenders*, building global support for women human rights defenders, 2015

Adolfo Pérez Esquivel

Argentinian Nobel Peace Prize Laureate for his resistance against the military dictatorships in Latin America, Human Rights and democracy advocate, Former political prisoner



© PrensaPEsquivel

“Israel can not continue its oppression of the Palestinian people because this is not only harmful to the Palestinians themselves, but to humanity as a whole.”

Message in support of the Palestinian prisoners' freedom and dignity hunger strike in 2017

Stephen Hawking

World-renowned physicist, professor and best-selling author



© anastas_styles (wax figure)

“ I must withdraw from the conference. Had I attended, I would have stated my opinion that the policy of the present Israeli government is likely to lead to disaster. ”

Hawking announcing his decision to withdraw from the Israeli Presidential Conference in 2013 in protest over Israel's occupation of Palestine

John Legend

Singer-songwriter, Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony award winner



© Imaginechina-Editorial

“ Love is a pretty radical notion. It means your daughter or son, your neighbor’s daughter or son and the daughters and sons of people who live thousands of miles away, all deserve the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It means we let go of fear and see each other’s humanity. It means we see a young Palestinian kid not as a future security threat or demographic challenge, but as a future father, mother and lover. ”

Speech during Commencement Ceremony at the University of Pennsylvania in 2014

Banksy

Renowned graffiti artist whose identity remains secret



© VanderWolf Images/Shutterstock.com

“How illegal is it to vandalize a wall if the wall itself has been deemed unlawful by the International Court of Justice?... It stands three times the height of the Berlin wall... run[s] for over 700 km – the distance from London to Zurich... It essentially turns Palestine into the world’s largest open-air prison.”

From his 2005 introduction of the *Wall Project*

Emma Thompson

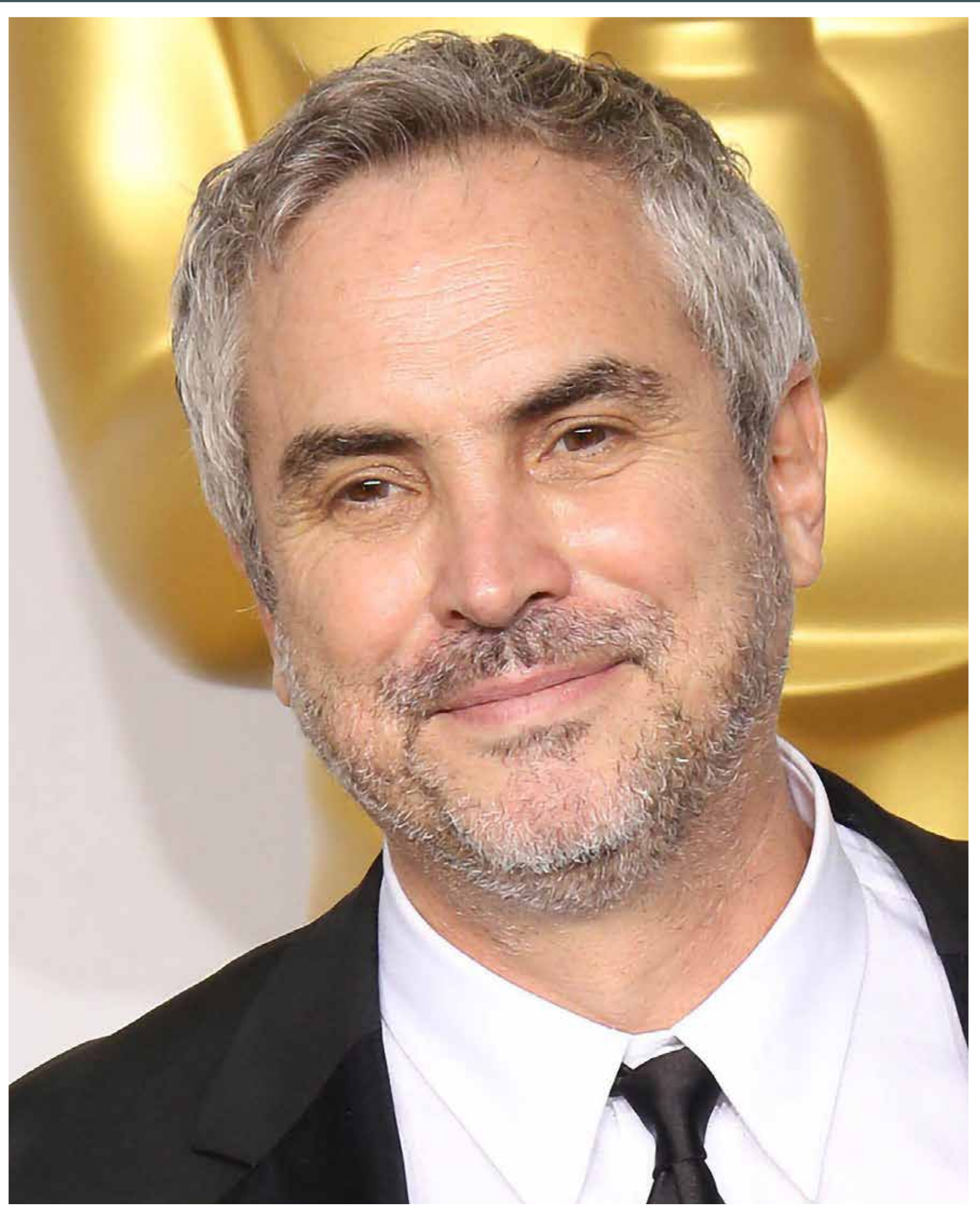
Oscar winning English actress and screenwriter



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Alfonso Cuarón

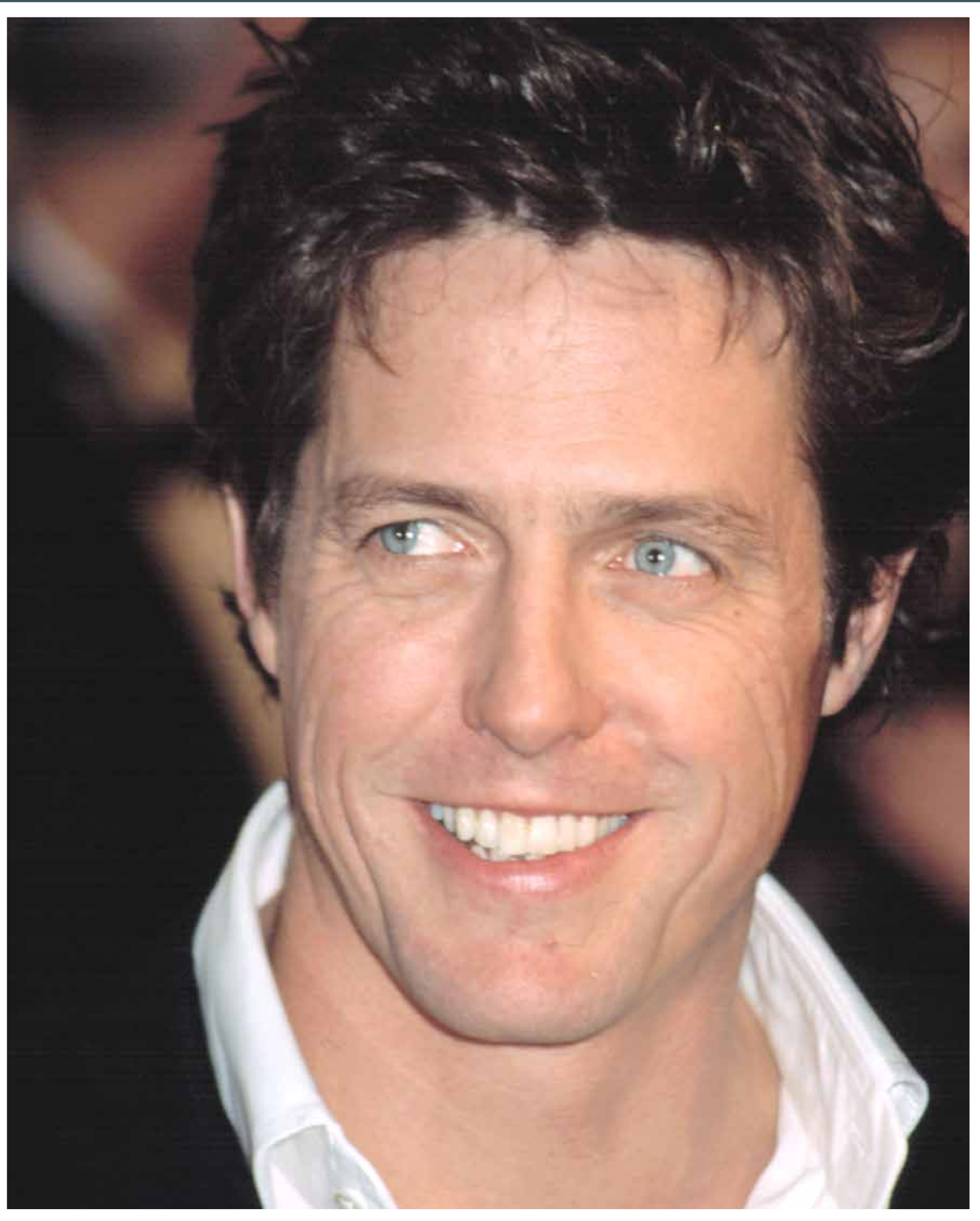
Oscar winning Mexican film director and screenwriter



© s_bukley

Hugh Grant

Award winning English actor and film producer



© everett225

“ We wish to highlight here the fact that Palestinians’ human rights include their internationally recognised rights as a people. These rights are inherent, and cannot be removed by brute force, or alienated from them. ”

Statement issued in 2018 in response to US decision to cut funding to UNRWA signed by world stars including actors **Emma Thompson, Hugh Grant, Claire Foy, Vanessa Kirby, Viggo Mortensen, Tilda Swinton, and Olivia Wilde**; filmmakers **Alfonso Cuarón, Ken Loach and Stephen Frears**; screenwriters **Hanif Kureishi and Paul Laverty**; singer **Peter Gabriel**; and football legends **Eric Cantona and Gary Lineker**

Penélope Cruz & Javier Bardem

Oscar winning actors

“ Gaza is living through horror these days, besieged and attacked by land, sea and air. Palestinians’ homes are being destroyed, they are being denied water, electricity and access to their hospitals, schools and fields while the international community allows for this situation to continue. ”



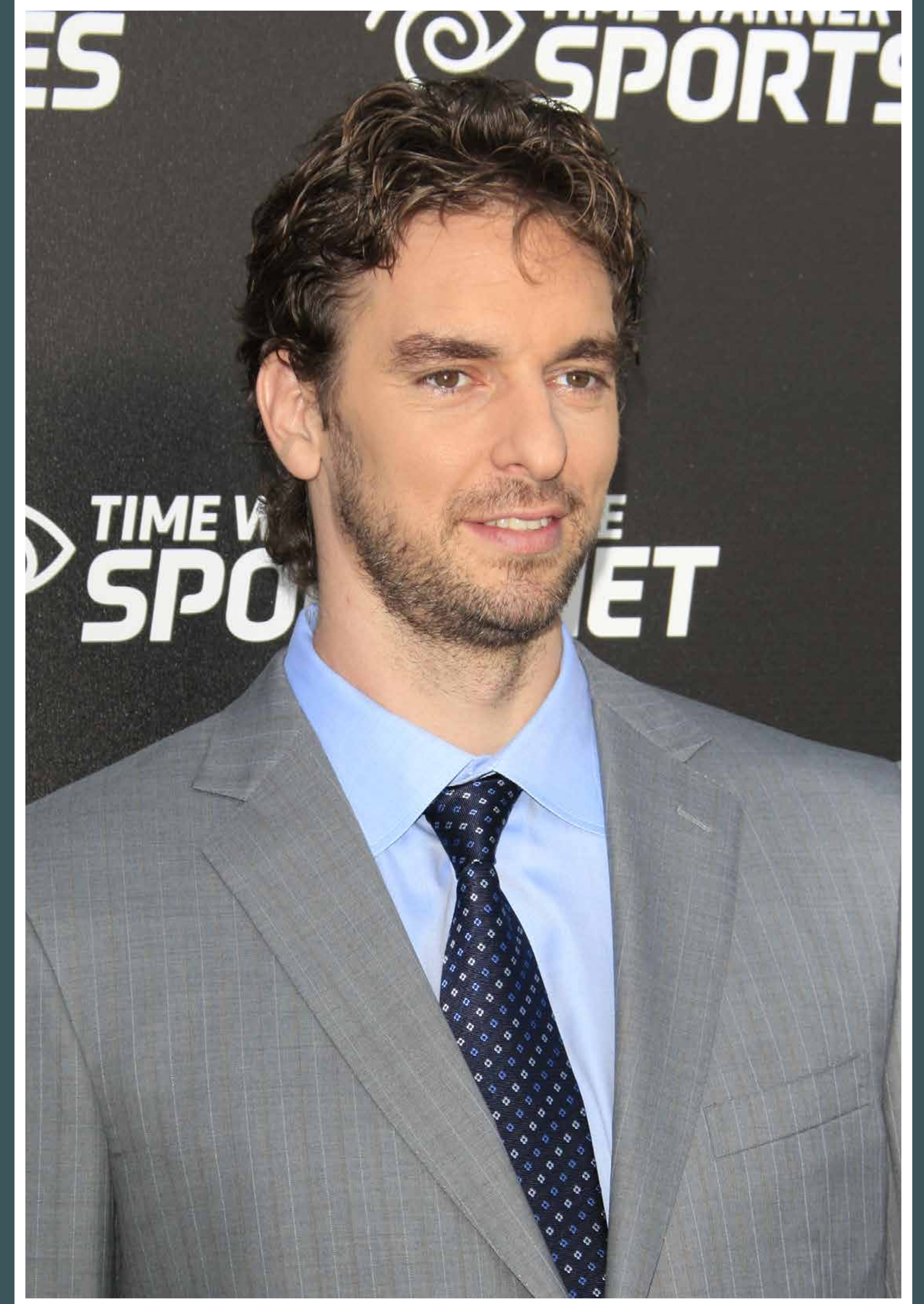
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Statement against the Israeli attack on the Gaza Strip in the summer of 2014 by a hundred Spanish actors, directors, playwrights and writers including Oscar winning artists actress **Penélope Cruz**, actor **Javier Bardem** and film director **Pedro Almodóvar**

Pau Gasol

Two-time NBA champion with the Lakers, World champion and three-time European Basketball Champion with the Spanish team, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador

“Against incredible odds, you the children of Gaza will break the previous world record for most basketballs dribbled at the same time [sending] a message to the world that your dreams and hopes are as real as every other child’s and, if given the chance, you can achieve the impossible.”



© Kathy Hutchins/Shutterstock.com

Message to Palestinian children ahead of their 2010 successful attempt to break the Guinness world record

Anthony Bourdain

World-renowned chef, storyteller & writer



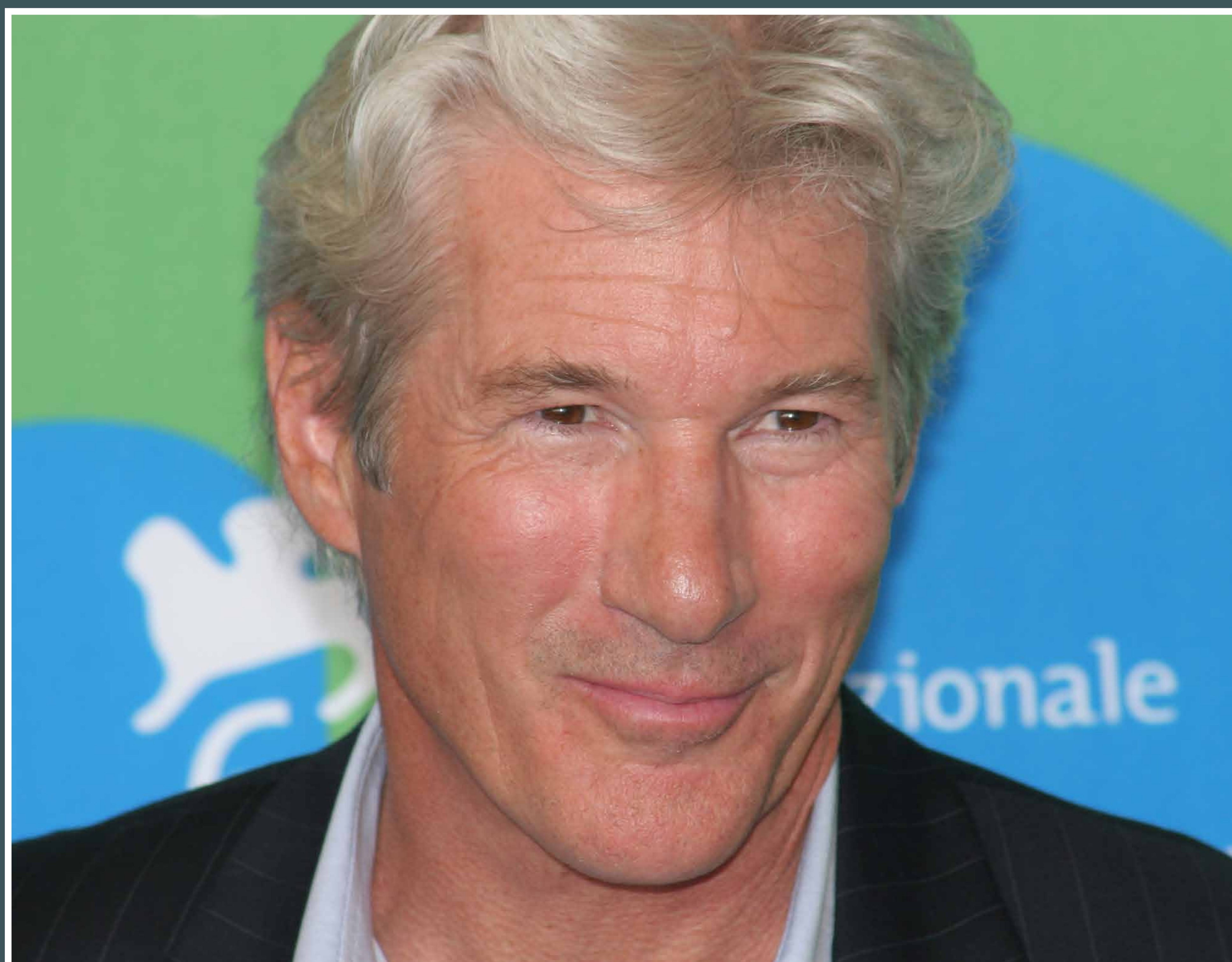
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“The world has visited many terrible things on the Palestinian people, none more shameful than robbing them of their basic humanity.”

Acceptance speech for an award he received in 2014 for the episode of his CNN programme Parts Unknown that he filmed in the Gaza Strip

Richard Gere

Golden Globe award winning actor, humanitarian and musician



© DenisMakarenko

“ This occupation is destroying everyone. There’s no defense of this occupation. Settlements are such an absurd provocation and, [are] completely illegal – they are certainly not part of the program of someone who wants a genuine peace process. I denounce violence on all sides. Israelis should feel secure. But Palestinians should not feel desperate. ”

Interview in 2017 after he visited occupied Palestine during his trip to attend the Israeli premiere of his film, *Norman: The Moderate Rise and Tragic Fall of a New York Fixer*

Roger Waters

Rock & Roll legend, founding member and principal songwriter of Pink Floyd



© gregorylee

“ We all remember 1948, not only because of the Nakba... but also because of the adoption by the UN of the Universal Declaration of Human rights that was supposed to extend to all our brothers and sisters, all over the world, irrespective of their ethnicity, religion or nationality. Would it not extend to the indigenous people of Palestine? ”

At a conference in solidarity with the Palestinian people held in Uruguay in 2018

Toni Morrison

Novelist, editor and educator, first African-American woman to win a Nobel Prize



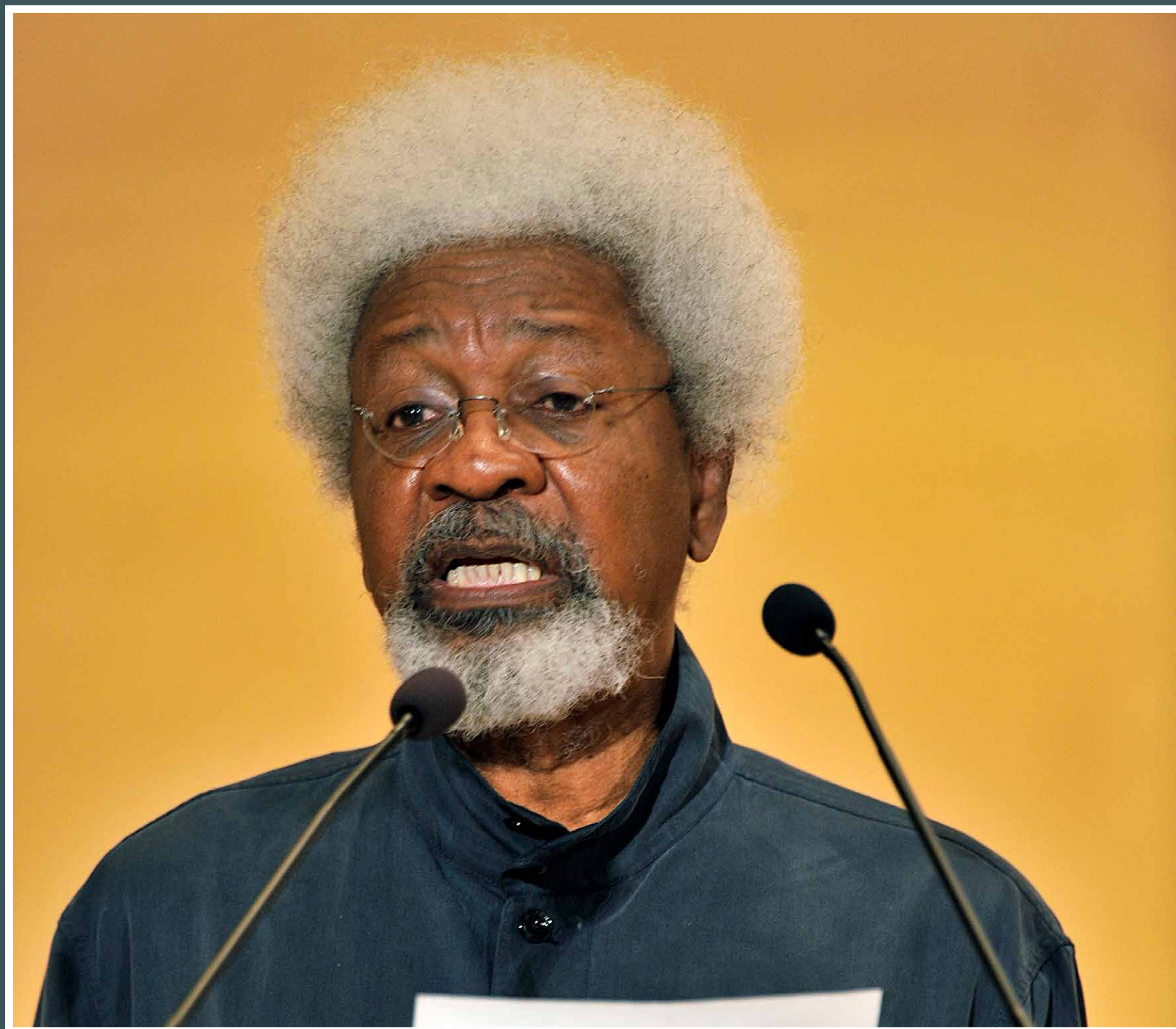
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“
Arguments, accusations and vows,
all serve as a distraction in order
to divert world attention from a
long-term military, economic and
geographic practice whose political
aim is nothing less than the liquidation
of the Palestinian nation... [This]
practice must be unceasingly and
eternally recognized for what it is
and resisted.”

From a joint letter of 18 prominent writers, including Toni Morrison,
published in international newspapers in August 2006

Wole Soyinka

Nigerian writer, Nobel Prize Laureate in Literature



UN Photo/Jean-Marc Ferré

“ Many of [the Israelis] who believed that their political leader was treading the right political path had simply never taken the trouble to project their minds into the refugee camps of the Palestinians, into their daily existence – much less visit the physical reality, experience at first hand the daily humiliation and the scars of memory that characterise the condition of nearly all Palestinians today. ”

On his participation in April 2002 in a visit of writers led by Mahmoud Darwish to Palestine, together with the Nobel prizewinner **Jose Saramago**, as well as **Breyten Breytenbach**, **Juan Goytisolo** and **Russell Banks**

Ahmed Kathrada

Anti-Apartheid Movement icon, initiator of the Free Mandela campaign before himself being arrested and spending 26 years in prison in South Africa



© Ahmed Kathrada Foundation

“**Apartheid, after being vanquished in South Africa, cannot be allowed to triumph in Palestine.**”

At the launch on Robben Island of the International Campaign to Free Marwan Barghouti and all Palestinian prisoners in 2013

Angela Davis

Scholar, writer, former political prisoner and icon of the US civil rights movement



© Timothy Greenfield-Sanders

“**Now is the time to mobilize and organize in support of the cause of Palestinian freedom... In this work, we always follow the example of our courageous Palestinian sisters and brothers who have been waging the campaign for self-determination on so many fronts, for so many decades.**”

From her statement at the closing session of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine in 2012

UN General Assembly

One of the six main organs of the United Nations and the only one in which all 193 Member States have equal representation



UN Photo/Cia Pak

“ **Reaffirms the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the right to their independent State of Palestine...urges all States and the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to support and assist the Palestinian people in the early realization of their right to self-determination.** ”

From the annual resolution entitled The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination which was adopted with the support of over 170 States by the General Assembly in 2018

Inter-Parliamentary Union

This Assembly brings together national parliaments from around the world and has 179 Member Parliaments and 12 Associate Members



“ **Renews its solidarity with and support to the Palestinian people in defending their just cause and their legitimate rights, including their historical and rooted rights in Jerusalem, guaranteed by the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy.** ”

Resolution adopted by consensus by the IPU Assembly in 2018 entitled The consequences of the US declaration on Jerusalem and the rights of the Palestinian people in Jerusalem in the light of the UN Charter and resolutions