



OIC/PAL-02/2019/SG.SP/UNEXCOM

STATEMENT OF
YUSEF A. AL-OTHAIMEEN,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC
COOPERATION (OIC) ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE.

UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK
27 NOVEMBER 2019

Excellency, Mr. Ambassador, Sheikh Niang, Chairman of the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure, at the outset, to express the OIC's profound gratitude to the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and to its chairman, Amb. Sheikh Niang, and its members, for their steady commitment and diligent efforts in the defense of the Palestinian just cause and in mobilizing international support for it.

We here express our appreciation for the Palestinian people who have managed through their boundless dedication and unwavering belief in their just-cause, to remain steadfast on their land, and defend their rights. At the same time, we call for more international solidarity with the Palestinians to help them regain their legitimate national rights.

Ladies and Gentlemen

This commemoration is convened in accordance with the UN General Assembly's resolution of 1977 declaring this day as the International Day of Solidarity with the People of Palestine, and offers us all: states, organizations and peoples, an opportune occasion, to renew our steadfast commitment to supporting the Palestinian just cause. This occasion should inspire us all to increase our efforts and to shoulder our collective responsibility for putting an end to the Israeli colonial occupation and policies which are based on killings, coercive displacement, ethnic cleansing, illegal settlements, land confiscation, demolition of properties and denial of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The present commemoration takes place, this time, amidst grave developments with the serious escalation witnessed recently in Gaza Strip due to the Israeli military aggression, which resulted in dozens of martyrs and wounded people, in blatant violation of international and humanitarian law and international agreements. In this respect, the OIC calls on the international community to rise up to its responsibility and provide international protection to the Palestinian people and to compel Israel to put an end to its violations.

Moreover, the occupied City of Al-Quds/Jerusalem is experiencing grave developments, as a result of the persistent policies of Israel, the occupying power, aimed at altering the legal, historical and political status of the Holy City, seeking to cut it from its Palestinian environs. This is further compounded by the irresponsible stands and decisions adopted by certain states that manifest their full bias in favour of Israel, the occupying force, along with the policies pursued to judeize the occupied city of Al-Quds/Jerusalem, in a blatant violation of international law and relevant UN resolutions.

The OIC reaffirms its rejection to the declarations made by the US Secretary of State in which he considered that "the Israeli colonial settlement does not conflict with international law". We consider this declaration a blatant violation of the international

legality, United Nations resolutions, particularly those of the Security Council, all of which clearly affirm that Israeli settlements are illegal and represent an aggression against the Palestinian people's rights. The OIC stressed that the United States biased stand in favor of the Israeli occupation represents a defiance to the world community and does not bestow any right or legitimacy, but could rather undermine the international law and international efforts to reach a peaceful resolution to the conflict based on the vision of the Two-State solution.

We here reaffirm our categorical rejection and full denunciation of the Israeli prime minister's declaration as to his intention to "impose Israeli sovereignty on all the areas in the Jordan Valley, in the North of the Dead Sea and the settlements in the West Bank", and we consider this declaration as a grave escalation and a blatant aggression on the Palestinian people's historical rights. This declared intention aims at undermining chances of reaching a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in accordance with the two-state solution in line with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

The situation is further aggravated as a consequence of the illegal decision of the Israeli occupation authorities to continue withholding the revenues of Palestinian taxes. This Israeli decision is no less than a form of piracy and collective punishment against the Palestinian people, as well as a violation of international law and of Israel's commitments under signed agreements. This act has led to the exacerbation of the financial, economic and humanitarian crisis endured by the Palestinian people.

The OIC wishes to affirm, in this regard, that the absence of effectively dissuasive international measures is susceptible to permit Israel, the occupying power, to get away with its violations and to persist in its grave violations and racial practices. As a matter of fact, accountability offers the proper tools to put the necessary pressure on Israel to end its occupation and to honour its responsibilities under international law and relevant United Nations resolutions.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The OIC applauds the renewal of UNRWA's mandate for the coming three years, and calls on all nations to further concretize their political support through financial contributions so as to enable UNRWA to continue serving the Palestinian refugees until the achievement of a final settlement of their cause in line with the relevant United Nations resolutions.

The OIC also renews hereby its invitation to all the parties of the international community to align their policies, stands, efforts and their roles with the obligations and commitment to the international law. We also call for an effective and serious multilateral sponsorship of peace mediation, within a specific timeframe to realize the two-state solution based on agreed international terms of reference including the UN resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative.

Thank you for your kind attention.