

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم



OIC/PAL-02/2020/SGSP/UNEXCOM

STATEMENT
by
H.E. DR. YOUSEF AL-OTHAIMEEN
Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic
Cooperation (OIC)
On the Occasion of the International Day
of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

UN Headquarters – New York

1 December 2020

H.E. Secretary General of the United Nations

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

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This international gathering held on 29 November of every year to celebrate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, in consistence with the UNGA's relevant resolution, takes on a particular importance as an opportune occasion to reiterate our political stands, aspirations, responsibilities towards the Palestine issue, as well as our unwavering commitment to supporting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Please allow me on this occasion to express, on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, our thanks and appreciation to the United Nations and its various organs and bodies, namely the United Nations Committee for the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Sheikh Niang and its respected members, for their active efforts to promote the Palestinian cause and strengthen the international support for and solidarity with the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This meeting is taking place against the backdrop of difficult circumstances and extremely distressing challenges in the occupied Palestinian territory where the Palestinian lands are still subject to the Israeli occupation, colonial settlement, blockade and plagued with the racist separation wall. Indeed, Israeli fanatic settlers continue abusive and intimidating acts and violence resulting in Palestinian casualties; property damage as well as annexation of Palestinian land and constructing more than 12 thousands new colonial settlement units during 2020. Such a policy seriously threatens to undermine the territorial integrity and contiguity of a future state of Palestine, and jeopardize the viability of the two-state solution, in addition to being a flagrant violation of international law and relevant UN resolutions. The OIC affirms, in this regard, that necessary measures should be taken by the international community to put an end to the Israeli settlement policy and ensure Israel's respect for and compliance with its resolutions, in particular UN Security Council Resolution 2334.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We cannot review the current developments without reference to the gravity of the situation in the occupied city of Jerusalem, namely the Israeli judaisation policy aimed at altering the Arab Islamic-Christian character, status and demographic composition. We reaffirm that the city of Jerusalem is an integral part of the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967 and all illegal measures and decisions aimed at altering its historical, legal and political status are null and void according to International Law and UN resolutions, and remain rejected and unrecognized by the international community.

The OIC invites all UN member states to abide by their political and legal obligations, ensure respect for International Law and contribute to the international efforts to end the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory and realize the vision of the two-State solution on the 1967 borders to which the OIC remains fully committed.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The plight of the Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli prisons continue to be a case of denial of justice and a heinous crime and odious practices perpetrated by the Israeli occupation against Palestinian citizens. We urge in this regard the international community to act effectively to defend their basic human rights and compel Israel, the Occupying Power, to respect the provisions and principles of international humanitarian law and halt all its violations, which threaten to further deteriorate the situation at all levels, and inflict more suffering on the Palestinian people.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The OIC also emphasizes the need to remain committed to the political, legal and humanitarian mandate of UNRWA, to support its mission in discharging basic services to Palestine refugees and to make sure that their concerns and growing needs are receiving adequate attention. We are confident that solidarity and joint international efforts to mobilize resources will contribute to reducing the difficulties that UNRWA encounters and help mitigate the suffering of Palestine refugees until the achievement of a final settlement of their issue in line with the relevant UN resolution 194.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The OIC fully supports the call, by the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, on the UN Secretary-General, to take necessary steps, in cooperation with all members of the UN Security Council and International Quartet, towards convening a multilaterally-sponsored international peace conference, with full authority and with the participation of all concerned parties, to engage in a meaningful peace process, based on international law, UN resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative, with the objective of ending the occupation and enabling the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate right to freedom and independence within their sovereign State, on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and resolving all final status issues, including the question of the refugees, based on UN resolution 194.

We hope that this meeting will succeed in mobilizing increased support from the international community to the just cause of Palestine and wishing for its success.

Thank you .