



**ADDRESS OF**  
**AMB. SAMIR BAKR DIAB**  
**ASSISSTANT SECRETARY GENERAL FOR PALESTINE AFFAIRS**  
**ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION**

**at the**  
**Virtual International Conference on Jerusalem**

**Entitled:**  
**“The impact of Israeli settlement policies on the Palestinian population in Jerusalem”**

**Convened by**  
**the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP)**  
**in partnership with**  
**the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)**

**Thursday, 20 July 2023**  
**10 a.m. – 12 p.m. (NY time)**

**H.E .... the Representative of the UN Secretary General**  
**Your Excellency Sheikh Niang, Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the**  
**Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,**  
**Your Excellencies,**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like, at the outset, to extend the OIC deep appreciation to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and to all Members of its Bureau, for their efforts in support of the just cause of Palestine. I wish also to avail myself of this opportunity to pay tribute to the UN Division for Palestinian Rights, for their commendable work to ensure the success of this important meeting which consecrates one of the aspects of partnership and mutual cooperation between our two organizations.

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

We meet today to discuss Israel's colonial settlement policy in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, which continues to persistently violate International Law and UN resolutions including UNSC's Res. No. 2334 of 2016 and undermine the territorial integrity and contiguity of the Palestinian state. The OIC reiterates its call for an immediate and complete halt to all Israel's illegal colonial settlement activities.

The OIC welcomes, in this regard, the recent publication this month of an update to the United Nations database of businesses facilitating Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, issued by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and welcomes the UN resolution in this regard requesting its yearly update.

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) expresses its appreciation for the recent European Parliament's position calling for EU member states to recognize Palestinian statehood, ending settlement activities, and supporting the International Criminal Court's investigation into war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the occupied Palestinian territory. We call on EU countries to implement these recommendations.

Excellencies

We reaffirm that the intensity of the Israeli violations of international law commands a paradigm shift in international intervention. It is not acceptable that Israel continues to behave as a state above the international law and to perpetrate its crimes with full impunity.

The OIC reiterates, in this regard, its call on the international community to pressurize Israel, the occupying power, into ensuring compliance with and respect for its obligations under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, and taking decisive action to hold Israel, the occupying power, accountable for all its crimes and violations including its illegal colonial settlement policy.

Israel's de facto realities and unilateral actions on the ground aimed at changing the legal and historical Status Quo of holy places, repeated aggression against Al-Aqsa Mosque, as well as altering the Arab character, and demographic composition of the occupied East Jerusalem are null and void according to international law and UN Resolutions.

We forewarn that the continuation of such Israeli violations against holy places would expand the scope of the conflict to a religious dimension with far-reaching repercussions on peace and security in the region and beyond.

In closing, I would like to reaffirm the full support of the OIC for the Palestinian people in their endeavour to regain their legitimate and inalienable rights, including their right to self-determination, sovereignty, and independence in their State in the territory occupied since 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and to reach a just solution to the plight of the Palestine refugees in line with United Nations Resolution 194.

Thank you for your attention.