

Message from the Prime Minister of Pakistan

On the Occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
(29 November 2023)

On the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, I want to convey the unwavering support of the people and the Government of Pakistan for the Palestinian cause and for the exercise of the inalienable right to self-determination by the Palestinian People.

This year, the occasion coincides with Israel's indiscriminate aggression and siege of the Gaza strip, which we believe amounts to "collective punishment." Israel's actions, wrongly justified under the guise of "self-defense", do not absolve it of violating the laws of war. A state that forcibly occupies foreign territory cannot legitimately claim the "right to self-defense" against those living on the land it has unlawfully seized.

The dire humanitarian situation in Gaza has exacerbated the suffering of Palestinians who have endured illegal Israeli occupation for over five decades. Drawing any false equivalence between Israel, the aggressor, and the Palestinians, the victims, is legally, morally, and politically untenable.

It is imperative that the international community upholds principles of humanity and international law by holding Israel accountable for its actions against Palestinians since the 1948 Naqba. Israel's aggression and blatant human rights violations in the occupied Palestinian territories, including attacks on aid convoys, hospitals, schools, and civilians, are another stain on its own dubious record, as the occupying power.

Israel's actions persist due to a sense of impunity. As long as the international community fails to take substantive measures to halt these atrocities, Palestinians will continue to suffer deaths, injuries, and egregious human rights violations.

We call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and urge the international community to provide humanitarian aid to the occupied Palestinian territories in response to Israel's escalating aggression against unarmed and besieged civilians. Adequate funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is essential to meet the needs of Palestinian People.

Pakistan reiterates its consistent support for the two-state solution of the Palestinian issue, as enshrined in relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. We reaffirm our solidarity with the people of Palestine and call for the establishment of a viable, independent, and contiguous State of Palestine on the basis of internationally agreed parameters of the pre-1967 borders, with Al Quds al Sharif as its capital.
