

UNITED NATIONS



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**THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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**MESSAGE ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF  
SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**

Tuesday, 26 November 2024

ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ

**H.E. Mr. Cheikh Niang, Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People**  
**H.E. Mr. Philémon Yang, President of the General Assembly,**  
**H.E. Ms. Barbara Woodward, President of the Security Council,**  
**H.E. Mr. Riyad Mansour, Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine,**  
**Excellencies,**

**I have the honour to deliver the Secretary-General's message.**

**Every year on this day, the international community stands in solidarity for the dignity, rights, justice and self-determination of the Palestinian people. This year's commemoration is especially painful as those fundamental goals are as distant as they have ever been.**

**Nothing justifies the 7 October terror attacks by Hamas and the taking of hostages. And nothing justifies the collective punishment of the Palestinian people.**

**Yet, more than a year later, Gaza is in ruins, more than 43,000 Palestinians – mostly women and children – have been reportedly killed, and the humanitarian crisis is getting worse by the day. This is appalling and inexcusable.**

**Meanwhile, in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Israeli military operations, settlement expansion, evictions, demolitions, settler violence and threats of annexation are inflicting further pain and injustice.**

**It is past time for an immediate ceasefire and the unconditional release of all hostages; an end to the unlawful occupation of the Palestinian Territory – as confirmed by the International Court of Justice and the General Assembly; and irreversible progress towards a two-State solution, in line with international law and relevant UN resolutions – with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security, and Jerusalem as the capital of both States.**

**As a matter of urgency, I appeal for full support of lifesaving humanitarian relief for the Palestinian people – in particular through the work of UNRWA, which represents an irreplaceable lifeline for millions of Palestinians.**

**The United Nations will continue to stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people and their inalienable rights to live in peace, security and dignity.**

**[END]**