



26 November 2024

Excellency,

It is with sincere sorrow that we are once again marking the anniversary of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People during a tragic time. I write this letter with the utmost of concern, mindful of the indescribable suffering and the dire humanitarian situation that the Palestinian people continue to endure every day, not only in Gaza but also in the West Bank. Rest assured that Malta is fully committed to the pursuit of securing a lasting peace in the Middle East.

It has been more than a year since the start of the war following the barbaric attacks of 7 October. Unfortunately, the situation has deteriorated to an unimaginable extent since then. Malta remains gravely concerned with the heart-wrenching deaths and forced displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, and the rampant destruction of their homes, including in East Jerusalem. The increase in illegal settlements and the violence by settlers in the West Bank exacerbate the fragile situation further. We urge for restraint, whilst also calling for the respect of the Status Quo on the Holiday Sites of Jerusalem.

Our efforts to bring an end to this blight in human history have never ceased, and we continue to call for an urgent ceasefire in Gaza and in Lebanon, for the immediate release of all hostages, and the adherence to UN Security Council Resolutions by all sides. Only then can we start taking the first steps towards peace.

Excellency, the risk of the conflict devolving further into an all-out regional war is a dangerous reality. Such a scenario would be to nobody's benefit, least of all to the innocent already enduring harsh conditions on the ground. Our appeals for de-escalation continue, and this is something we have strived for through our membership of the United Nations Security Council, as a European Union Member State, and as Chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

May I also take this opportunity to express our distress at legislation passed by the Israeli Knesset that effectively banned UNRWA's operations in the region. UNRWA's role as a much-needed stabilising force cannot be understated, and it remains a vital humanitarian life-line for millions of Palestinians in Gaza, the occupied Palestinian territory, and across the region. Malta continues to be committed to supporting UNRWA in this regard.



Your Excellency, this is a crisis that will never be solved through wars and conflict, as violence begets violence. Malta is steadfast in its belief that a peace based on the Two-State Solution is the only way to bring a lasting end to this unprecedented suffering.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Robert Abela
Prime Minister

His Excellency Mr. Cheikh Niang
Chair
Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People