

MESSAGE ON
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN
PEOPLE

Ankara, 18 November 2024

Mr. Cheikh Niang

Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of
the Palestinian People

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, I would like to express personally and on behalf of my nation with most heartfelt feelings our unwavering support to the just cause of our Palestinian brothers and sisters who have been subjected to oppression, occupation, persecution and genocide.

Palestinian people continue to be confronted with the massacres and genocide of Israel. About 50 thousand innocent Palestinian brothers and sisters, mostly women and children, were martyred in the Israeli attacks. Millions of Palestinians have been displaced from their homes, their lands, their homeland. By targeting civilian settlement areas such as hospitals, schools, mosques and churches, Israel essentially aims to revoke the Palestinians' right to live in their own land.

For this reason, it has become essential to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza in an adequate, safe, continuous and uninterrupted manner. As Türkiye, we have provided 86 thousand tons of humanitarian aid to our Palestinian brothers and sisters so far. We are continuing to increase our assistance to the oppressed in the region before the winter season sets in.

Israel continues its aggression not only in Gaza, but also in the West Bank. The escalating violence and terrorist activities of illegal settlers against Palestinians indicate a striving to expand the occupation and annexation. Israel's provocative attempts to change the status of Al-Quds and the Al-Aqsa Mosque have also gained momentum.

As Türkiye, we continue our efforts to end this increasingly reckless aggression and genocide.

An immediate and permanent ceasefire is imperative to stop the bloodshed in Palestine.

Gaza genocide must be punished within the norms of international law. We used our right to intervene in the case filed by South Africa against Israel at the International Court of Justice, regarding the violation of Israel's obligations under the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

Israel violates international law, avoids fulfilling its obligations before the United Nations (UN), and almost completely ignores the UN. The declaration of Mr. Antonio Guterres, the UN Secretary-General, as persona non grata in Israel, the decision to ban the activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East-one of the biggest supporters of the Palestinians in their struggle for existence- and even targeting the UN staff working in the region are concrete demonstrations of this attitude.

One of the main reasons for Israel's continued aggression is that some countries continue to send arms to Israel and provide political and diplomatic protection. On November 1, we submitted a letter calling for a halt to arms sales to Israel, initiated by our country and signed by 52 countries, the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, to the UN Secretary-General, the President-in-Office of the UN Security Council and the President of the UN General Assembly. Unless arms exports are stopped, Israel will not be willing to end this war on its own.

Without a just settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, it is impossible to establish lasting peace and stability in the Middle East. Israel continues its aggression in Gaza, which has been extended with the occupation of Lebanon, and therefore sets the whole region on fire. This is impermissible.

In accordance with international law, the establishment of an independent, sovereign and contiguous Palestinian State based on the 1967 borders, with East al -Quds as its capital, is an indispensable condition for the establishment of just and lasting peace in the region.

Türkiye is ready to assume every responsibility for the implementation of a just and lasting peace and a comprehensive settlement.

With these thoughts in mind, I wish you success in your endeavours as the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in defence of the fundamental rights and freedoms of Palestinians, which we follow with appreciation. I count on the members of the Committee to maintain their support to the aforementioned letter calling for a halt to arms sales to Israel and the efforts for the recognition of Palestine by the members of the international community.

I emphasise that the support we have given to the oppressed Palestinian people and their just struggle since the first day will continue resolutely, strongly and increasingly, and I greet you cordially.

Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN
President of the Republic of Türkiye