



Message of H.E. Mr. Iyad Amin Madani
Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation
on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

UN Head Quarters, New York

23 November 2015

Excellency Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the General Assembly

Excellency Mr. Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

Excellency Mr. Matthew Rycroft, President of the Security Council

Excellency Mr. Desra Percaya, Vice-Chair of the UN Committee for the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian people,

Excellences,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Our meeting today to celebrate the international solidarity day with the Palestinian people is being held in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 32/40b of 1977, as an expression of the will of the countries and peoples of the world to do justice to the Palestinian people and support their just struggle for attaining their inalienable rights. Please allow me on this occasion to express, on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, thanks and appreciation to the United Nations Committee for the exercise of the inalienable right of the Palestinian people, under the able Chairmanship of Ambassador Fodi Sik and its eminent members, for their active efforts to promote the Palestinian cause and strengthen the international support of and solidarity with the rights of the Palestinian people.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We gather here today to observe the Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People at a time when the defenseless unarmed Palestinian people suffer under the extremely harsh conditions due to the continuation of the Israeli occupation and the escalating. Palestinian lands are still subjected to confiscation for building and expanding illegal Israeli settlements throughout the occupied Palestinian Territory including East Jerusalem. The racist separation wall continues to consume more Palestinian lands, and thus exacerbating the already difficult life conditions of Palestinians whose national resources are also being plundered. The inhumane Israeli blockade on Gaza continues to deepen the misery of Palestinians. And much worse, East Jerusalem is being subjected to harsh Israeli measures of judaization and ethnic cleansing, with the aim of altering its geographic and demographic composition; obliterating its Arab Islamic identity; destroying its houses; driving out its indigenous Palestinian citizens and cutting the City off its Palestinian environs. At the same time, Israel continues to deliberately and systematically violate the Palestinians' freedom of worship, in addition to desecrating Christian and Islamic holy sites.

The escalation of Israeli crimes in the occupied State of Palestine, especially the policy of shoot to kill carried out by the Israeli occupation forces and extremist Israeli settlers against

defenseless Palestinian civilians will only further deepen the conflict, exacerbate the suffering of the Palestinian people, worsen the already unstable situation and make peace difficult to achieve in the Middle East.

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation reaffirms that the dangerous developments currently taking place in Palestine cannot be decontextualized from the continuing Israeli aggressions against the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque. We have repeatedly warned against these aggressions, and condemned them as unprecedented assault against the inalienable religious rights of Muslims all over the world. If not ceased, they will further feed extremism, violence and racism and contribute to igniting religious strife that would endanger the prospects of peace and stability in the region. Once again, we caution that the continuation of Israeli aggressions against Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem would spark a religious war, one that Israel alone bears the responsibility of its consequences. The international community cannot ignore these dire warnings.

We also reiterate that failure to find a just solution to the Palestinian cause as the core issue in the Middle East has started fueling conflicts in the region, threatening to affect international peace and security. Therefore, we call once again upon the international community, particularly the Security Council, to intervene earnestly and immediately to provide international protection for the Palestinian People, and to take a decision that establishes a political path to preserve the two-state solution, based on relevant UN resolutions particularly resolutions, and to set a well-defined timeframe for ending the Israeli occupation, with international guarantees and binding implementation mechanisms.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Finding a solution to the current crisis requires the political will, particularly of the Security Council, by applying pressure on Israel to cease its continuing aggression against the Palestinian people. The United Nations must assume its responsibility of ensuring that international humanitarian law and other relevant international commitments for the protection of civilians in situations of armed conflicts be fully upheld in Palestine.

In conclusion, I would like to seize this opportunity to reiterate the OIC's support of the Palestinian people in their endeavor to regain their inalienable national rights, including the right of return, self-determination, and the establishment of the independent state on the occupied lands since 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital, and find a just solution to the question of the Palestinian refugees in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

Thank you