

*Permanent Observer Mission
of Palestine
to the United Nations*



البعثة الرابطة الدائمة
لفلسطين
لدى الأمم المتحدة

Message of

H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Abbas
Chairman of the Executive Committee
of the Palestine Liberation Organization
President of the Palestinian National Authority

on the occasion of
the International Day
of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

29 November 2007

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,

In the name of the Palestinian people and their leadership, I wish to extend our best and sincerest greetings and our most profound gratitude to all who join us in commemorating the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. This day was designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 1977, as an occasion to remind all of the suffering of the Palestinian people and to stress the necessity of achieving a just solution to their cause, based firstly and lastly on the principle of the right to self-determination and an end to the Israeli occupation leading to the establishment of the independent Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital. The annual commemoration of this occasion by the United Nations is a testament of the importance and centrality of the question of Palestine in relation to international peace and security.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express our profound appreciation to our brother H.E. Ambassador Paul Badji, Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and to all of the esteemed members of the Committee and also to H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, for his efforts and his message on this occasion. I also wish to extend our thanks to H.E. Dr. Srgjan Kerim, President of the General Assembly, and to H.E. Mr. R.M. Marty M. Natalegawa, President of the Security Council. I would also like to extend our warmest greetings and gratitude to all the speakers and to all present here today sharing with us the commemoration of this occasion in all parts of the world as an expression of their solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle to attain their legitimate rights.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted this date for the commemoration of this occasion in 1977 as a reminder of its resolution in 1947 on the partition of Palestine. It was also decided to underscore the necessity of bringing an end to the long suffering of our people, who paid a high price without having committed any crime. They have been living for decades either as refugees deprived of their homeland or living under occupation enduring all kinds of practices against them of oppression and subjugation, including the confiscation of their land,

mass arrests campaigns and other measures and crimes which occur daily before the eyes and ears of the entire world. Generation after generation have not known the sense of freedom and have not enjoyed the least of what other peoples on earth are enjoying. The time has come to put the past behind us and to begin a new era without occupation and animosity; an era based on the logic of rights not on the logic of force.

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the sole and legitimate representative of our people, has endeavored, on the basis of resolutions adopted by the Palestinian National Council and since the Declaration of Independence in 1988, to achieve a political settlement leading to peace, which we all aspire to achieve and which is based on the recognized terms of reference starting from United Nations resolutions, the Road Map, the Arab Peace Initiative, President Bush's vision, and the agreements signed between us and the Israeli side.

The historical conference, which was held in Annapolis two days ago, is a very important juncture and opportunity for launching serious peace negotiations within a set time frame under the auspices of and with the participation of the international community, including the members represented by the international Quartet, aimed at bringing an end to the conflict and to achieving a peace that will bring an end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, provide for a just and agreed upon solution to the issue of the Palestine refugees on the basis of United Nations General Assembly resolution 194, and guarantee the establishment of our independent State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, living in peace and security with its neighbors, including Israel.

Peace can not be achieved by the construction of the apartheid Wall, which was condemned as illegal by The Hague Court, nor by the expansion of settlements, nor by the judaization measures of Jerusalem and the preventing of Palestinians, both Christians and Muslims, from entering their city even for their right to religious worship. Security cannot be achieved by the siege imposed on the City of Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus Christ, and by surrounding it with walls and settlements and transforming its holy places to isolated antiquities. Security cannot be achieved by the siege imposed on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the Gaza Strip. Security cannot be achieved by military attacks, raids and incursions into Palestinian cities,

towns and villages. Security cannot be achieved by the confiscation of Palestinian lands and allowing extremist, fanatic settlers to attack Palestinian civilians and to set fire to and uproot their agricultural crops. Security for both peoples can only be achieved through the achievement of a just peace, and through relations based on equality and mutual respect.

On this day, 29 November, which coincides with the sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Partition resolution in 1947 and the fortieth anniversary of the occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in 1967, our people look forward with great hope to the future and they are determined to uphold their rights, confident that the international community will not allow this opportunity today to be lost in order to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict on all tracks starting with the core and basis of this conflict, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

The wide international participation in the Annapolis Conference is a manifestation of the extent of attention given by all the peoples of the world to peace in our region. On this occasion, I reiterate our thanks and gratitude to all who have contributed to and participated in the commemoration of this day. I look forward with great hope to commemorating it with you next year, God willing, in our free and independent State of Palestine with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

Peace be upon you.