



PERMANENT
OBSERVER MISSION OF
PALESTINE
TO THE
UNITED NATIONS

115 EAST 65TH ST.
NEW YORK NY 10021

TEL 212 288 8500
FAX 212 517 2377



Message from

*H.E. President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen)
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 2005

(Original: Arabic. Check against delivery.)

H.E. Ambassador Paul Badji, Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,
H.E. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan,
H.E. The President of the 60th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Jan Eliasson,
H.E. The President of the Security Council, Mr. Andre Denisov;
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We meet today with all the defenders of international legitimacy and the principles of justice and peace to commemorate together the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people and with their national inalienable rights to freedom and independence, and to reject the policies of injustice, domination and occupation.

Annually on this day, the Palestinian people receive a message from the world, reaffirming to them that they are not alone in their struggle to achieve their legitimate rights, which are guaranteed by international legitimacy, and are supported by all who represent the conscience of the world, believe in such lofty principles and rights and defend them, and insist on ending the suffering and historic injustice that has befallen the Palestinian people.

On this occasion, allow me to convey my gratitude and deep appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, and to Mr. Paul Badji and his respected colleagues, members of the Bureau, and to all the Members of the *Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People* for the genuine efforts they have been exerting to promote the realization by the Palestinian people of their rights.

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our cause has gone through many difficulties and significant changes since the day in 1977 that the United Nations General Assembly designated 29 November as the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people. Since then, the peace process was launched at the Madrid Conference, which led to the signing of the Declaration of Principles for the interim period and revived the hopes of our people and the peoples of the region for the establishment of peace and stability.

During these years, the Palestinian people continued their just struggle to achieve their freedom and independence and all States rejecting occupation and oppression have stood with and supported them. These States have called upon Israel, the occupying Power, to end its occupation and to respect the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, in particular their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent State on the territory occupied in 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and to find a just and agreed-upon solution for the plight of the refugees, based on resolution 194.

However, the peace process, despite the humble achievements that were achieved at the start, has suffered repeated setbacks as a result of the Israeli occupation and its measures for Israel refuses to implement the resolutions of international law and the Road Map, under various pretexts and false excuses, and continues to deprive the Palestinian people from their legitimate rights. The construction of the Wall of annexation and separation continues, despite the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice of 9 July 2004, which declared the Wall to be unlawful, and which the international community followed with resolution ES-10/15 on 20 July 2004, condemning the Wall and calling upon Israel to comply with its legal obligations as called for in the Advisory Opinion.

In this same context, Israel has continued its policy of confiscating Palestinian land to build settlements. East Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine, is being isolated from the rest of the Palestinian land and being surrounded by walls on all sides and its geographic character and nature continues to be altered, its institutions remain closed and the identity of its people continues to be stolen under various pretexts. Israel also continues to detain thousands of prisoners in its prisons. And, the peace process and the Road Map, which was welcomed by entire international community and was endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 1515 (2003), and the final status negotiations - all have been under the control of the will of Israel, the occupying Power, and its expansionist plans at the expense of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. This has continued in addition to the use of all kinds of oppression, including killings, assassinations, arrests, home demolitions, uprooting of trees, destruction of livelihoods, destruction of infrastructure, imposition of closures and siege on our cities, villages and camps and their isolating and transformation into isolated cantons and prisons for hundreds of thousands of people, and the violation of all forms of international law, in particular international humanitarian law and the human rights law.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Under these circumstances, many significant developments occurred, particularly the Israeli withdrawal from within the Gaza Strip. This development took place after our late President Yasser Arafat planted the seeds of independence and freedom and came as a result of the struggle and steadfastness of our people as well as a result of your continuing support.

Despite the unilateral nature of this move and our deep concerns that it has been carried out in the framework of deepening and expanding the colonization in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the imposition of unilateral solutions and concept of the "State with provisional borders", we are still dealing with the situation in a positive manner and we still strive to transform the withdrawal from within Gaza to an opportunity to return to the negotiation table and to begin the resolution of all final status issues, based on the resolutions of international law.

The agreement on and the opening of the Rafah crossing has had an important impact for our people, for it constitutes a link for the Gaza Strip with the Arab world and the entire world. It is also a step forward to the unity and linkage of the Palestinian territory towards the realization of the independent, contiguous and viable Palestinian State, with its heart East Jerusalem. In this regard, I wish to express, in the name of the Palestinian people and their leadership, my deep gratitude to all those who exerted efforts for and contributed to the conclusion of this agreement.

In this context, the Palestinian National Authority initiated - before, during and after the Israeli withdrawal from within Gaza, efforts aimed at maintaining public security and order and imposing the rule of law in order to provide security for the citizens and to improve the economic situation and encourage investment. This is being done in addition to continuing efforts to enhance the democratic process, which began with the elections and will be followed by the Palestinian Legislative Council elections at the end of January 2006, and which aim at laying the foundations for political pluralism, based on law.

We, in Palestine, have chosen peace and negotiations as the path to reaching a just and comprehensive peace and achieving our legitimate objectives of freedom and independence and self-determination in accordance with international law and as defined in the Road Map plan and the vision of President Bush. And, our hands remain outstretched for peace.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The United Nations has played a central role in the life of the Palestinian people. Since its establishment, the United Nations has shouldered its responsibility with regard to this cause until the achievement of a just and comprehensive solution in all aspects. And, over the many years, the United Nations has exerted efforts to preserve and safeguard their rights, and it has always been the source of the legal and just basis for resolving the Palestinian issue. For this reason, I can only convey the gratitude and appreciation of our people for this historic and important role in affirming our legitimate national rights, especially during the last few years.

On this day whole world stands against injustice and occupation, and it is proof that the conscience of the world is alive and that its eyes see the tragedy of the people of Palestine as well as their right to freedom, independence and establishment of their independent State, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Peace cannot be achieved, and freedom cannot see the light under occupation, domination and the denial of rights.

May Peace be upon you and the mercy and blessings of God.

Signed:

Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen)
Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization
President of the Palestinian National Authority