

Nord-Sud XXI Oral Statement on Item 7 (Palestine)

The plight of the Palestinian people and especially the denial of their right to self-determination is the longest-standing unresolved situation of a massive violation of human rights on the United Nations agenda. For so many people it is the main test of this Council's ability to contribute to the protection of human rights in the world.

Nord-Sud XXI welcomes the initiative taken by the representatives of the Palestinian Liberation Organization at the United Nations to further their struggle by striving to achieve full recognition as a Member State before the United Nations and the specialized agencies of the United Nations. We note that Palestine fulfills all the criteria under international law for recognition as a full member of the international community. Indeed, most States and several major intergovernmental entities already recognize the State of Palestine.

Nord-Sud XXI also notes that mere recognition of Palestine will not ensure respect of the human rights of all Palestinians. In addition, the commitment of this Council will be required to ensure that Israel does not enjoy impunity for more than a half century of massive human rights abuses. The responsibility of Israel is incurred as a corporate entity as well as by each Israeli, foreign State, or individual foreigner who contributes to Israel's violation of Palestinians human rights.

At this Council, to ensure respect for international law, Nord-Sud XXI urges States to consider adding real teeth to the resolutions on the Gaza Floatilla, self-determination, and the illegal settlements, by calling for concrete action by the Council and the General Assembly to ensure both corporate and individual responsibility for the ongoing, serious, reliably attested, and massive violations of Palestinians' human rights.

Finally, please be assured that Nord-Sud XXI would like to see Item 7 removed from the Agenda of the Council, but this must only happen after the human rights of all Palestinians have been secured and after those who have and continue to violate Palestinians' human rights have been punished and have compensated their victims. International law requires nothing less.

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