

Permanent Mission Of The Kingdom  
Of Saudi Arabia To The United Nations  
NEW YORK



الوفد الدائم لجمهورية المملكة العربية السعودية  
لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

Mr. Chairman,

**Statement of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

**FOURTH COMMITTEE – 65<sup>th</sup> SESSION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**On Item 51:**

***Relief and Works Agency for Palestine  
Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)***

New York, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010

Delivered by

***Talaat Radwan***

Minister Plenipotentiary

*Mr. Chairman,*

On behalf of the Delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, I extend to your Excellency sincere congratulations on your election as Chairman of this Committee; and we are confident that your diplomatic experience will enable you to successfully manage the work of this Committee. We also express our appreciation to H.E. Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar for successfully managing this Committee in the previous session, as well as the other members of the office.

*Mr. Chairman,*

I am honored to express my sincere gratefulness to all the staff of the Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for their sacrifices and efforts in spite of the difficulties and risks they have faced carrying out their entrusted duties. While commending the fundamental and humanitarian role UNRWA has played since its inception, we urge it to continue its efforts dedicated to implementing relief programs and services to all Palestinian refugees. The continued successful implementation of the Agency's programs requires an increase in the number of employees and offices in the Occupied Territories. Additionally, the expansion of health centers, schools, and other infrastructure is also necessary to cope with the refugee population growth. In order to achieve these ends, the international community, especially donor countries and other entities such as the specialized financial institutions like the World Bank, must double their contributions to finance the Agency's services and programs.

*Mr. Chairman,*

*Mr. Chairman,*

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia strongly condemns the continuous siege on the Gaza Strip; and further demands the immediate cessation of this unjust blockade and all arbitrary actions and restrictions imposed by Israel on all international relief organizations. We also call for the demolition of the racist separating wall which Israel built in the West Bank. This wall is deemed illegitimate, not only according to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, but also by the several General Assembly resolutions that affirm the illegality of the construction of the wall on occupied Palestinian land. Finally, we call for the international community to compel Israel to compensate UNRWA for all the damages and losses it has caused to the Agency's property and buildings.

*Mr. Chairman,*

*Mr. Chairman,*

Saudi Arabia attaches great importance to promoting humanitarian issues at the grassroots level in addition the governmental level. This is confirmed by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, which reports that Saudi Arabia topped the world in the field of voluntary contributions to finance humanitarian relief operations in 2008. In ongoing support of UNRWA's humanitarian work serving Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank and refugees in camps in host countries, the Kingdom has supported both the Palestinian Authority and UNRWA's budgets from 2002 to 2009 with \$734.8 million. In addition, \$200 million has been allocated for projects under study with the Al-Aqsa Fund that is managed by the Islamic Development Bank, UNRWA and the World Bank. The Kingdom has also contributed \$25 million to the reconstruction of Nahr el-Bared refugee camp in Lebanon.

*Mr. Chairman,*

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is committed to contributing annually to the UNRWA. Again from this podium, my Country pledges its continued support to enable the Agency to achieve its humanitarian objectives and to continue its work in alleviating the tragedy of the Palestinian people by alleviating their suffering until they can return to the land from which they were displaced and given adequate compensation for the material and moral damages they have suffered for decades. UN Resolution 194 affirms the natural right of the Palestinians to return to their homes and their right to compensation for damages suffered. *is based on UN resolutions to restore security and stability in the entire region of the Middle East.*

*Mr. Chairman,*

*Thank you Mr. President.*

Middle East Peace is one of the biggest problems threatening international peace and security; and Israeli colonization of the Occupied Territories is one of the few existing in the world since the end of the age of colonization and the reversal of apartheid. All members of the Arab League have supported all initiatives and efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East from the Madrid Conference to present. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has continuously played an effective role in supporting the peace process, has participated in all international peace conferences and proposed the Arab Peace Initiative which was endorsed by nearly all peace-loving countries in the world.



*Mr. Chairman,*

In conclusion, I would like to point out that financial support alone is not the sole solution to the refugees' problem. Rather, what is largely required at this stage is political support, especially from the international community, to resolve the Palestinian issue, and to begin direct negotiations between the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority along with immediate cessation of settlement building, in order to achieve the establishment of a Palestinian state based on 1967 borders, with its capital in East Jerusalem and finally, the return of refugees in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, a peace that is based on UN resolutions to restore security and stability in the entire region of the Middle East.