

*Permanent Mission
of the State of Kuwait
to the United Nations
New York*



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STATEMENT

BY

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

BEFORE THE

**GENERAL ASSMEBLY
PLENARY**

ON THE

QUESTION OF PALESTINE

WEDNESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2005

- **The General Assembly debates one of the most important item included on its agenda because of its close association with international peace and security. The Middle East has not enjoyed stability for many decades despite its vitality and strategic importance. This is a direct result of wars which drained its energies and resources. The most serious problem that this region encounters may be the persistence and premeditation of the Israeli government in pursuing its unlawful policies and practices, as well as in rejecting peace initiatives.**

- **Kuwait follows with deep concern the tragic situation endured by the Palestinian people in the Arab occupied territories, along with the continued deterioration in its economic and social conditions as a result of the Israeli practices which are inconsistent with international and humanitarian laws and customs. Such practices are characterized by detention, repression and opening fire on unarmed civilian population, as well as home demolition, land expropriation, siege of Palestinian cities and political assassinations of Palestinian leaders. In this context, Kuwait calls upon adhering to the agreement concluded**

at Sharn Al-Sheikh last February and which calls for the rejection of violence.

- Kuwait reiterates its full support to the struggle of the Palestinian people in order to obtain its legitimate political rights. Kuwait also calls upon the Israeli government to comply with its obligations under Security Council resolutions, namely 242, 338, 1397, 1515 and with the principle of land for peace, along with the bilateral agreements concluded with the Palestinian Authority in the framework of the peace process and the Road Map. It also calls upon Israel to refrain from such policies dealing with siege, starvation, repetitive military invasions of areas under the rule of the Palestinian Authority, destruction of the infrastructure and the construction of settlements. It also calls for the release of all Palestinian detainees, as well as to refrain from changing the status of the Holy Sites or causing any prejudice to Al-Aqsa Mosque. Kuwait calls for holding on to the Arab character of Jerusalem and rejecting any Israeli measures to annex it or judaize it.
- With respect to the separation wall, the persistence of Israel in its construction is a flagrant violation of international law, especially humanitarian international law and human rights law, as well as of the

opinion issued by the International Court of Justice on July 9, 2004 and which considers that this wall is inconsistent with the resolutions of the international legality. The ICJ has requested from Israel to remove it and to compensate the Palestinians who were harmed by its construction. It also shows that Israel does not respect the will of the international community which was set forth in the General Assembly resolution adopted by the tenth extraordinary session held in July of last year.

- Kuwait believes that the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and northern parts of the West Bank is a first step which should be followed by further steps with a view to end the occupation in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions, and in order to pave the way for the establishment of an independent Palestinian State on national Palestinian soil with Al-Quds Al-Sharif for capital.
- The latest agreement on the Rafah crossing is an indicator of the progress achieved. More should be done, especially regarding the re-opening of the Gaza airport and port, as well as the freedom of movement between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and within the West Bank itself.

- **Kuwait looks forward that the Israeli withdrawal would revitalize the peace efforts in the region, which could lead to the full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights to the demarcation line on the eve of June 4, 1967, in implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions. Kuwait would also like to emphasize Israel's illicit activities in the occupied Golan Heights.**
- **With respect to Lebanon's concerns, Kuwait continues to fully support its fair demands and calls upon Israel to stop its continued threats against Lebanon and to respect its sovereignty.**
- **To conclude, Kuwait would like to stress that a just, durable and comprehensive peace cannot be achieved as long as the Israeli occupation of Arab territories since 1967 will persist. The State of Kuwait would also like to reiterate its support and commitment to the Arab peace initiative approved by the Arab Summit held in Beirut, as being one of the basic element in the peace process. In this regard, Kuwait appreciates the Quartet's efforts to lead the region to security and stability which all parties hope to achieve. The Israeli government should be aware that security is a major requirement for all peoples and countries in the region and should not be monopolized by Israel only.**