



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



**Statement by Ms. Nadya Rasheed, First Secretary, before the Third Committee, 60<sup>th</sup> Session, Agenda Item 72: Right of peoples to self-determination, 8 November 2004:**

The achievement self-determination by great number of nations is among the most important accomplishments of the past century. During this same time period, the world has also witnessed the eradication of countless forms of colonization and subjugation. However, despite such significant achievements, the world regrettably still continues to witness the emergence of many new forms of discrimination and injustices. As such, the international community should continue with its efforts to address this issue until all forms of repression is eradicated and the right to self-determination becomes a reality for all.

Mr. Chairman,

Throughout the thirty-eight years of Israeli occupation, the Palestinian people have endured constant threats to their national existence, and systematic violations of their human rights, both individual and collective. The occupation has denied them of their most basic rights and freedoms, including their right to self-determination, and is the root cause of the immeasurable suffering and hardship faced by the Palestinian people.

Every year that passes, in which the Palestinian people continue to be denied their right to self-determination, is another year of more suffering and further deterioration of their tragic living conditions. Attempts to merely calm the situation on the ground without truly addressing the core issue of the right of Palestinian people to self-determination will repeatedly fall short of a genuine solution. The enjoyment of the Palestinian people to self-determination and independence are essential for the achievement of a comprehensive, permanent and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Chairperson,

Over the past year, the Israeli occupying forces have shown no indication of reducing the harshness of their military occupation. Therefore, the human rights of the Palestinian people continued to be violated and gravely breached. Moreover, in the past five years, the human rights violations by the occupying Power against the Palestinian people increased dramatically in scale and intensity. It is shameful, that at time of almost complete decolonization, the Palestinian people not only continue to be denied their right to national identity on their own land, but even their most fundamental rights, including the right to life, are being denied.

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

Mr. Chairperson,

The Palestinian people are also being denied their basic and fundamental right to self-determination as a result of Israel, the occupying Power's, illegal policies and practices aimed at seizing and colonizing Palestinian land, particularly through its unlawful construction of the Wall and its expansion of its network of illegal colonial settlements and bypass roads in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Here, it is imperative to recall that the International Court of Justice in its Advisory Opinion of 9 July 2004 rendered that Israeli settlements and Israel's wall are indeed contrary to international law.

In this regard, it is necessary to reiterate that Israel is under obligation to cease its construction of the Wall, to dismantle the structure situated therein, to repeal or render ineffective all legislative and regulatory acts relating thereto, and to make sure reparation is made for all damage caused by its construction. Regrettably, the occupying Power has been doing exactly the opposite. In flagrant disrespect for the Court's ruling and in direct violation of General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004, Israel has continued to confiscate Palestinian land and to inflict more damage as it has fervently continued its construction of the Wall, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Apart from the immediate and long-term humanitarian consequences, the construction of the Wall, along with expansion of illegal settlements, deeply impair the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. These measures are swallowing up land required for a future Palestinian state, making the vision of a two-state solution virtually impossible.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Palestinian people have made historical compromises in order to achieve their national aspirations, to exercise their inalienable rights and to live in peace and dignity. Israel must understand that the Palestinian people will not accept anything less than real freedom after suffering for more than half a century under occupation. We continue to hold steadfast to our inalienable rights and continue to believe in the day that Palestine will participate as a Member State of the United Nations. The continuation of the occupation with the constant use of military force and the humiliation and dehumanization of the whole Palestinian population will not make us give up our legitimate struggle for our right to self-determination. In this regard, we call upon the international community to bring an end to the Israeli occupation and all of its illegal practices and policies to make way for the establishment of a viable and contiguous Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation is submitting its resolution entitled, "The Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination." We trust that the Member States will send a strong message in solidarity with the Palestinian People by adopting this resolution by consensus and by affirming their long over due right to self-determination.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.