

ALGERIA



الجزائر

Permanent Mission of Algeria
to the United Nations
New York

بعثة الجزائر الدائمة
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

Statement By

His Excellency Mr. Mourad BENMEHIDI

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Algeria

Before

The General Assembly of the United Nations

On the agenda item (37)

“Question of Palestine”

New York

29 November 2011

Mr. President

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Egypt on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. President

Our meeting today comes at a time when, despite intensified efforts to revive the negotiation process, Israel continues to carry out its illegal actions in the occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

On a daily basis, the occupying power violates the most basic human rights, including the right to life, education, livelihood, housing, and countless other fundamental rights. The range of the Israeli malicious policies is wide and the impact is severe on all segments of the population. In this regard, in addition to its inhumane blockade of the Gaza Strip, in collective punishment of the entire civilian population, Israel continues to launch military attacks against the Gaza Strip, with abject disregard for human life and the safety of civilians in this densely populated territory.

Furthermore, it is highly condemnable that Israel, the occupying power, continues to pursue its illegal settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem. Recent announcements regarding the establishment of thousands more settlement units, particularly in and around occupied East Jerusalem, as well as continued Israeli demolitions of Palestinians homes and properties accompanied by escalating settler's violence and forced evictions, are seriously aggravating the situation on the ground and undermining the efforts to revive the negotiation process.

In addition to the aforementioned illegal actions, Israel, the occupying power, continue withholding Palestinian's tax revenues in an outrageous act of piracy and political extortion of the Palestinian people and their leadership. This is Palestinian money that Israel is obliged to transfer to the Palestinian authority in accordance with signed agreements.

With regard to the plight of the Palestinian prisoners and detainees, my delegation, while welcoming the prisoners swaps deal that led to the release of more than one thousand Palestinian prisoners and detainees, strongly condemns the continued detention and imprisonment of thousands Palestinians in Israeli jails, where ill-treatment and torture are widely used. Those prisoners, who

include children and women, should be immediately released and proper international inspection of their current condition should be a priority for the international community.

Mr. President

The Israeli's unlawful actions on the ground provide the starkest evidence of the contrast between its actions and its professed intention to participate in the peace process. This clearly demonstrates that Israel is not on the path to peace and that the only goal pursued by the Israeli policy seems to be the undermining of any future prospects for a peaceful settlement.

It is regrettable that all serious efforts exerted to date by international and regional parties, including the last Quartet statement of 23rd September 2011, to resume direct negotiations have failed mainly due to lack of clear parameters for these negotiations, and the insistence of Israel, the occupying power, to continue its actions aiming at cleansing the occupied Palestinian territory of its indigenous Palestinian population and altering its demographic composition and cultural character.

The respect by Israel of its obligations is imperative for resuming direct negotiations towards achieving the two-State solution on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242, 338, 1397, 1515 and 1850, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Road Map.

The international community must exert all efforts to compel Israel to abide by its obligations and commitments forthwith and to resume final status negotiations based on clear parameters that would include: cessation of all settlement activities, and agreed time frame that recognizes the urgency of the matter, and the 4 June 1967 borders as the foundation and starting point for the negotiations.

My delegation reiterates that any negotiated outcome between the parties must result in the emergence of an independent, democratic and viable Palestinian state within the 1967 borders and with Al Qods Ach-cherif as its capital based on the international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

I thank you.