



**CHAIR OF  
THE COORDINATING BUREAU  
OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**



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**Statement by  
H.E. Mr. G.H. Dehghani, Ambassador & Charge d'Affaires a.i.  
of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
On behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement  
in the commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people  
New York, 24 November 2014**

**H.E. Mr. Ban-Ki Moon,  
Secretary General of the United Nations,**

**H.E. Mr. Sam Kutesa,  
President of the General Assembly,**

**H.E. Mr. Gary Francis Quinlan  
President of the Security Council ,**

**H.E. Mr. Pierre Krähenbühl  
Commissioner-General of UNRWA,**

**Mr. Chairman,**

I have the honor to address this important meeting on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement on the occasion of the observance of "the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People". I express my deep appreciation to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for its important work in promoting the cause of the Palestinian people. NAM's appreciation also goes to Mr. Pierre Krähenbühl, Commissioner-General of UNRWA, for his valuable efforts in helping alleviate the pain of the people in Gaza during and following the recent Israeli aggression and for his perseverance in raising fund for reconstructing so many devastated homes, schools and hospitals in Gaza. Let me also commend the efforts by Egypt and Norway for successfully holding the Conference on Palestine and Reconstructing Gaza in Cairo on 12 October this year.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people is a solemn occasion for renewing our commitment to a just and lasting solution for the question of Palestine and a

durable peace in the Middle East. NAM fully supports the observance of this day, as it provides an opportunity every year to reflect on the situation of the continued occupation, which has deprived the Palestinian people from their basic rights and subjected them to untold pain and suffering for many decades and lies at the heart of the Palestinian questions and so many other issues in the Middle East.

The question of Palestine has been on the United Nations agenda for more than 66 years by now, and yet the Palestinian people have no glimmer of hope for realizing their right to self-determination and freedom. Despite decades of their participation in peace efforts in good-faith, the Palestinians' plight has worsened on all fronts due to Israel's persistent illegal policies and practices that undermine all peace efforts.

By resorting to the state-of-the-art weapons and waging disproportionate war, Israel, the Occupying Power, invaded the Gaza Strip in the most cruel and brutal manner during the past summer and the month of Holy Ramadan. As a result of this brutal aggression, Palestinians' homes and even United Nations premises, including schools, used as safe havens, were attacked and bombed, leading to the killing of more than 1500 persons, out of them close to 800 were children and women, and more than 11000 injured. NAM reiterates its condemnation of the Israeli military aggressions against the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the deadly aggression against the people of Gaza in last July and August.

It is disturbing that Israel, the Occupying Power, continues to pursue such illegal practices with blatant impunity despite the prohibitions of such actions under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, relevant United Nations resolutions, and the 2004 ICJ Advisory Opinion. The impact of these illegal measures on the Palestinian civilian population, including women and children and the most vulnerable such as Palestine refugees, must be seriously considered and measures must be taken in accordance with international law to remedy this injustice.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The ongoing illegal Israeli settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian Territory continue to be a matter of grave concern. The recent provocative declarations made by Israel, the Occupying Power, about plans to construct thousands more settlement units is further confirmation of Israel's refusal to cease its settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian Territory. In this regard, NAM calls for urgent action and practical measures by the international community, in particular by the Security Council, to compel the Occupying Power to cease completely its illegal and destructive settlement campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to abide by all of its obligations under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, UN resolutions, the Advisory Opinion and its obligations under the Road Map in this regard.

NAM also expresses its grave condemnation regarding the illegal Israeli practices aimed at altering the demographic composition, legal status, character and geographic nature of the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, so as to facilitate de facto annexation of more Palestinian land. Provocations by Israeli settlers and extremists, including vis-à-vis sensitive religious sites, particularly Al-Aqsa Mosque, in the recent days and weeks have worsened the situation on the ground, deepening already grave doubts regarding Israel's claimed commitment to the two-State solution and peace.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Movement expresses deep concern at the lack of progress in the Middle East peace process and calls for immediate and practical efforts to advance a fair and credible peace process based on the relevant UN resolutions and other major initiatives undertaken in the past decades. We stress that the peace process must ensure an end to the occupation of the Palestinian Territory and the other Arab territories the Israeli occupation, including East Jerusalem; the exercise by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination in an independent, sovereign, and viable State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital; and a just solution for the plight of the Palestinian refugees based on General Assembly resolution 194 (III).

Finally, the Islamic Republic of Iran, in its capacity as the Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement, hosted the meeting of the NAM Committee on Palestine on 4 August 2014 in Tehran in which, in addition to the members of the Committee, many other members of the NAM also took part. In its final communiqué, NAM expressed its solidarity with the Palestinian People and called upon the international community and the International Criminal Court to investigate the crimes committed by Israel. In this context, In this respect, NAM welcomes the establishment of an independent international commission of inquiry established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution S-21/1.

**Thank you**