



Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations

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Message of H. E. Dr. Hassan Rouhani
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran

on the occasion of *"the Observance of the International day of solidarity with the Palestinian people"*
United Nations, 29 November 2016

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

On the occasion of the Observance of the International day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, which is indicative of the determination of the peoples all over the world for sympathizing with the Palestinian people and supporting their inalienable rights, I would like to extend, on behalf of my people, the full support of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the cause of Palestine.

After 69 years of Zionist regime's occupation of the land of Palestine by force, killing and displacing more than 5 million indigenous Palestinian people, the question of Palestine still continues to be the main concern of the international community. After about 7 decades, and due to the negligence and silence of the international community, we are still witnessing the continuation of the Israeli regime's expansionist policy which seeks to ethnically cleanse the land of the Arab Muslims and Christians through expanding settlement construction and increasing daily restriction for the Arabs in Quds-al-Sharif. The persistence of Palestine problem, which lies at the core of the Middle-East crisis, is- indeed- the source of many crises and challenges in the region and has not only imposed heavy cost on Palestinians but also affected all other nations in the region and beyond.

The Gaza crisis and the endless pain of the Palestinians, who have been under siege and targeted by military aggressions and daily threats of Zionist regime, are among the catastrophes that should be dealt with urgently by the international community.

In the 21st century when the evolution of humanity requires justice and equality for all human beings, it is unfortunate that under the pressure and influence of the Zionist regime and the hegemony of a few veto-wielding powers, the International Community, including the UN Security Council, have not been able to take – even small- steps in realizing the rights of the Palestinian people. This situation has led to increasing aggressions by the Israeli regime at the international level, systematic violation of human rights and promoting terrorism which threatens international peace and security.

In conclusion, while expressing- once again- the solidarity of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the Palestinian people, I emphasize the necessity for resolving this crisis through, including addressing the root causes of the Palestinian question by putting an end to the occupation, returning the Palestinian refugees to their homeland and establishing an independent Palestinian country with Al-Quds- al-Sharif as its Capital.

Hassan Rouhani
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran