

*Permanent Observer Mission  
of Palestine  
to the United Nations*



البعثة المراقبة الدائمة  
لفلسطين  
لدى الأمم المتحدة

Unofficial Translation

*Statement by*

*His Excellency Mr. Mahmoud Abbas  
Chairman of the Executive Committee of  
the Palestine Liberation Organization  
President of the Palestinian National Authority*

*On the occasion of the  
International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People*

**New York  
29 November 2006**

H.E. Mr. Paul Badji, Ambassador of Senegal,  
Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights  
of the Palestinian People

H.E. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, President of the General Assembly

H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Jorge Voto-Bernales, Ambassador of Peru, President of the  
Security Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the name of the Palestinian people, I would like to address all of you and extend our warmest greetings on this day, the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, which was designated by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1977, thirty years after the Assembly's resolution on the partition of Palestine. It was this resolution that marked the beginning of our people's ongoing tragedy that continues on until today. Since then the majority of the Palestinian people have been living as refugees in their own homeland, in neighboring countries or in Diaspora. The rest of the Palestinian people are still living under a colonial occupation that continues to devour Palestinian land through the construction of the Apartheid Wall and the erection of tens of colonial settlements and the isolation of East Jerusalem by surrounding walls.

The General Assembly resolution, which designates the 29<sup>th</sup> of November every year as an International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is a forthright call to enable them to attain their national right to self-determination and to establish their independent state.

On this occasion, I would like to express our profound appreciation for the efforts exerted by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan, aimed at the achievement of a just and permanent peace in the Middle East. I would like also to extend our thanks to our dear friend H.E. Mr. Paul Badji, Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and to all the distinguished members of the Committee for their efforts, solidarity and their numerous initiatives brought about at different levels.

In accordance with its Charter, the United Nations has endeavored to enable peoples to exercise their right to self-determination, and entrusted the Security Council with the task of maintaining international peace and security. These noble and humanitarian principles are the shores of safety for every weak nation or State against those who are powerful and seek domination. Accordingly, it is natural for a people like ours to continue to look up to the United Nations to attain their national rights. It is regrettable that the innumerable recommendations and resolutions of the United Nations were not implemented. The obstacle has always been Israel's refusal to comply with resolutions of international legitimacy, having been encouraged by the veto power that prevents the Security Council from adopting resolutions, thus sending out a message of double standards.

Ladies and Gentlemen:  
Dear Friends

This year, the Commemoration of the Day of International Solidarity with the Palestinian People has more significance than ever before due to the progressive steps taken by our people towards the strengthening of their political regime by the adoption and exercise of the democratic system. This was embodied by the presidential, legislative and municipal elections, which the international community has testified to be transparent and honest, despite the fact that these elections were held under the most difficult circumstances. It is the first time in history that a people under occupation and who are deprived of their freedom have exercised their democratic rights.

In light of the results of the legislative elections, and within my constitutional power, I have requested the majority party to form a new government. I pointed out in my official speech at the inaugural session of the Legislative Council, that the new government must adhere to legitimacy and to the resolutions to which the Palestine Liberation Organization, as the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people, is committed. These are Palestinian, Arab and international commitments and resolutions which are prerequisites for the peace process and constitute the basis for a just peace, despite the fact that prior to the elections the Israeli Government declared its 14 points of reservations regarding the Road Map and denied the existence of a Palestinian partner, and has chosen what it has called a unilateral solution.

In addition to all their sufferings, the Palestinian people have been subjected to a financial and economic siege which has led to the exacerbation of poverty and brought it to an unprecedented level. This was accompanied by continued daily aggressions by the Israeli occupying forces manifested in killings, destruction of houses and the bulldozing of agricultural lands. I would like to remind you that the number of Palestinians killed since September 2000 has exceeded 4300 people, approximately a third of them were children.

This year has witnessed a large increase in the number of Palestinians killed. Since June and until today more than 510 people have been killed, the most recent being the Beit Hanoun massacre that took place on Wednesday, 8 November 2006, where 16 members belonging to the same family were killed, including seven children, the youngest being an infant of 6 months old.

Justice and logic necessitate that each party must exert all possible efforts to fulfill its obligations and commitments. On our part, we have exerted and still are exerting our utmost efforts to bring all forms of violence against Israel to an end, and have reached a unilateral ceasefire. We call upon Israel, which did not commit itself to the ceasefire, to end all its aggressive military actions in order to reach a comprehensive and mutual ceasefire. This shall enable us to create the right atmosphere and provide the necessary groundwork for the resumption of negotiations and the attainment of a just solution based on the signed agreements, the two-State solution and the Road Map Plan that was internationally adopted by Security Council resolution 1515.

As you are all aware, achieving this needs sincere efforts, faithful intentions as well as the strong will of the international community. Now the time has come for the convening of an international conference to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict at all tracks, and for the members of the Quartet to play the role of an honest intermediary and guarantor of the implementation of the agreements based on resolutions of international legitimacy, the principle of Land for Peace, and to establish the appropriate mechanism to achieve this goal.

On our part, and despite the oppression, killing, and destruction which we have been subjected to, our hands are still outstretched for peace which our Palestinian people have chosen with full awareness and conviction as a strategic choice. However, what the Israeli Government is planning and the

measures it is taking to continue to keep its control over large and important parts of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley will lead to the undermining of the two-State solution and will force the whole region into further violence and chaos, the consequences of which will not be limited to the Middle East region.

Based on our belief and responsibility to resolve this conflict through negotiations, we believe that if Israel continues its refusal of the idea of the international conference as well as its refusal of any role by the United Nations, and with the obstruction of the work of the Security Council, then the idea for the General Assembly to adopt a resolution in accordance with the Uniting for Peace formula remains to be the right choice.

The occupation of our land cannot continue forever, and the time has come to put an end to the bloodshed and to decades of hatred and hostilities. Today, I once again reiterate what I have said at previous occasions, that we want to establish our independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, in our land occupied in the June 1967 war, and to find a just and agreed upon solution to the issue of Palestine refugees on the basis of General Assembly resolution 194. Our Palestinian State shall be a peaceful State living in peace and security with its neighbors, including Israel, and shall strengthen and fortify regional and international security.

Finally, I would like to reiterate my profound gratitude to all who participated in commemorating this occasion, hoping that we shall celebrate it together next year with the establishment of our free and independent State of Palestine.

Peace be upon you.

Mahmoud Abbas  
Chairman of the Executive Committee of  
the Palestine Liberation Organization  
President of the Palestinian National Authority

Gaza, 29 November 2006