



**Permanent Observer of the
Organization of
Islamic Cooperation
to the United Nations**



**Permanent Mission of
the
State of Kuwait
to the United Nations**

Statement by

**H.E. Ambassador Mansour Ayyad Al-Otaibi,
Permanent Representative
of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations**

**on behalf of the Member States of the
Organization of Islamic Cooperation
– in the State of Kuwait’s Capacity as Chair of the OIC –**

General Assembly: Question of Palestine

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS – NEW YORK

Monday, November 23rd, 2015

Mr. President,

I am honored to address the General Assembly today on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). At the outset, I wish to express our gratitude to you for your wise leadership of the work of the General Assembly. In addition, I wish to extend our appreciation to the Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and Rapporteur of the Committee for their efforts and their report.

Mr. President,

Our meeting today takes place in a decisive historical context, as the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly the occupied city of Jerusalem, have been witnessing a dramatic deteriorating situation as a result of the escalation of Israeli military aggression against the unarmed, defenseless Palestinian people and their holy places. It has to be emphasized that Israel's ongoing oppression of the Palestinian people, its flagrant violations of all applicable provisions of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and its disrespect of agreements with the Palestinian side have brought the situation to a dangerous juncture.

We should also note that the recent escalation comes as an extension of the ongoing Israeli aggressions against Christian and Islamic holy sites in East Jerusalem, especially Al-Haram Al-Sharif, which houses the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque. We have warned, on several occasions, that the crimes and aggressions by Israel, the occupying Power, and its settlers and extremists

against the holy sites in Jerusalem could spark a religious war, one that Israel alone would bear the responsibility of its consequences and one that must be averted by all means.

The OIC condemns in the strongest terms the continuation of the Israeli aggression, especially the policy of execution and deliberate murder carried out by the Israeli occupation forces and extremist Israeli settlers against defenseless Palestinian civilians, including children. The OIC also condemns Israel persistence with its settlement policy, especially in Occupied East Jerusalem, which clearly aims at illegally altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in addition to creating de facto realities that would make the two-State solution impossible to achieve. Further, the OIC condemns the Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip, now in its eighth year, and calls for an end to this inhumane, massive collective punishment of the Palestinian people.

These Israeli acts of aggression constitute war crimes, and the perpetrators should be brought to justice. The OIC reiterates its call for the international community to act swiftly and take measures to stop these violations and to provide protection for the Palestinian people. It is no longer morally acceptable for the international community, particularly the Security Council, to remain silent or only express concern about the horrendous Israeli war crimes and atrocities against the people under its 48-year military occupation. There is no doubt that Israel considers the silence of the international community towards its crimes, as encouragement to proceed with state terrorism.

The United Nations has a permanent responsibility towards the question of Palestine until it is justly resolved in all aspects. In the absence of a just solution, it must continue to ensure the necessary assistance to the Palestinian people, including to the more than 5.5 million Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA, and must continue to demand that international humanitarian law and other relevant international mechanisms for the protection of civilians in situations of armed conflicts be fully upheld in Palestine.

Mr. President,

We would like to emphasize that failure to find a just solution to the question of Palestine, which is the core of the Middle East conflict, will only exacerbate the already unstable regional situation. Therefore, the OIC urges the international community to work strenuously for achieving peace in accordance with the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders and the resolutions of international legitimacy and the Arab Peace Initiative.

In this regard, we call on the Security Council, to act immediately to set a well-defined timeframe for ending the Israeli occupation, with international guarantees and binding implementation mechanisms, and to work towards enforcing its historical resolutions that ensure the Palestinian people exercise their inalienable and legitimate national rights, particularly the right to self-determination in their independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.