

**Statement by**  
**H.E. Mr. Dian Triansyah Djani**  
**Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights**  
**of the Palestinian People**  
**at the Special Meeting in observance of the**  
**International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People**  
29 November 2016

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Excellences,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again we are gathering on this day to observe the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. As we all know, on 29 November 1947, the General Assembly adopted resolution 181, which came to be known as the Partition Resolution. Back then, nobody would have imagined that 69 years later we would be still reminding the world of the need for the freedom of the Palestinian people and the independence of the State of Palestine, adjacent to the State of Israel, which came into being and gained its independence a few months after that resolution was adopted.

What resolution 181 called for was Palestinian self-determination, independence and sovereignty. These rights are inalienable to any people in the world. Since 1947, most colonies have realized this right, gained independence and are now vibrant nations in control of their land and natural resources. However, nearly seven decades later we are still here compelled to express our unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian people and support for those rights and to call for their long-overdue fulfilment as we are faced with the reality that resolution 181 was not fully implemented, and the Palestinian people have not only been denied their rights, but have endured the cruelty and misery of nearly a half-century of foreign occupation.

The Israeli occupation, which is being imposed in grave violation of international humanitarian law, namely the Fourth Geneva Convention, negatively impacts all aspects of Palestinian life and denies them their entitlement to equality: first and foremost, equality of treatment and respect for their basic right to life, safety, movement, and freedom, but also in their economic, social and cultural rights, as per international human rights law. The Israeli occupying forces continue to carry out summary executions, night raids, arbitrary arrests and prolonged detention without trial, with over 7,000 Palestinians, among them children, now imprisoned or detained by Israel. A parallel legal system makes Palestinians inferior in law and practice. Israel also continues to exploit the natural resources of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, further denying its inhabitants their right to development, in defiance of international human rights and humanitarian law.

In the occupied West Bank, including in East Jerusalem, Palestinian land continues to be confiscated, Palestinian homes and other structures are being demolished daily and at unprecedented rates and construction of illegal settlements continues at a faster pace than ever before. Today, 750,000 Israelis have been illegally transferred to and settled in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The two-State solution based on the 1967 borders has not only been steadily eroded, it is in extreme peril.

Provocations and incitement continue, especially with regard to holy sites in Occupied East Jerusalem as well as in Hebron, risking further dangerous destabilization, and attempts continue to limit the freedom of worship of Palestinian Muslims and Christians, violating this basic human right.

Freedom of movement continues to be severely obstructed by a network of road blocks and checkpoints. Separate sets of roads for the exclusive use of Israelis, in particular settlers, divide Palestinian cities, towns and villages from one another, isolating refugee camps, threatening the integrity of the Palestinian land, fragmenting the social fabric and undermining development. This fragmentation has been severely compounded by the construction of the Wall, whose route was declared contrary to international law by the International Court of Justice in its 2004 Advisory Opinion.

The Gaza Strip has endured three deadly and destructive conflicts in the last six years in addition to an illegal blockade, which continues to be imposed by Israel in collective punishment of the entire Palestinian civilian population there. This blockade not only denies Palestinian freedom of movement, severing the population from the rest of the world, but violates innumerable other human rights, and is obstructing urgently-needed reconstruction. With unemployment at over 65 per cent for youth, the de-development being faced in the Gaza Strip makes economic progress and stability a distant dream and further diminishes hopes among an already-marginalized population in despair.

A 14-year-old Palestinian girl asked a senior UN official visiting Gaza, "Why do human rights not apply to the Palestinians?" We, the international community, must ask the same question and examine whether our actions are enabling double standards. Why do we advocate for the respect for human rights and the rule of law in all other conflict situations but have let this occupation continue with impunity for almost 50 years? There can be no justification or excuse for the continuation of inaction; the international community's responsibilities and legal obligations are clear and immediate, serious, urgent steps must be taken to redress this injustice.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over 60 per cent of the population in Palestine is under 25 years old, born after the signing of the Oslo accords. We, the international community, told them that choosing non-violence and dialogue would bring about the end of the conflict. The international community guaranteed that the two-State solution was near and that the Palestinian people would be able to determine their future and lives in freedom, security and dignity and in their own State. We promised that development and prosperity were around the corner. Recently, we declared that attaining the Sustainable Development Goals was possible and a goal for every people in the world.

The international community and this organization have an unpaid debt. We owe Palestinian youth the freedom they deserve. We owe Israeli youth a future without the moral and political burden of this inhumane occupation. We owe Palestinians and Israelis a future together, coexisting side by side in peace and security. We owe the Middle East region a more peaceful, stable and prosperous future.

Even on this Solidarity Day, we, the international community in this United Nations that we so cherish, must go beyond solidarity; we must give meaning to the principles of UN resolutions and collectively and resolutely implement them towards ending this conflict and making peace a reality. We must act forthwith to end the Israeli occupation of Palestine and fulfil the promise of resolution 181.

The Committee urges the Security Council to uphold its responsibilities in respect of peace and security and ensure that the Palestinian people can finally enjoy freedom, independence and protection in their sovereign, independent and viable State. For its part, our Committee intends to implement an intensive programme of activities in 2017 as an international year to end the Israeli occupation with a view to reaching a just and lasting solution to this conflict.

Let us all move forward on the basis of the longstanding terms of reference and parameters, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions, the Madrid principles and the Arab Peace Initiative, to resolve this prolonged and tragic conflict: a State of Palestine, based on the 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital, living in peace and security, adjacent to a State of Israel, with arrangements for the holy sites in Jerusalem to be accessible to people of all religions and with a just solution for the Palestine refugees in accordance with General Assembly resolution 194.

On 15 November 1988, Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish and Palestinian professor Edward Saïd wrote a statement adopted by the Palestinian National Council and later proclaimed by the late Yasser Arafat, then Chairman of the PLO, as the Palestinian Declaration of Independence.

Let me quote from the Declaration: *"The State of Palestine, in declaring that it is a peace-loving State committed to the principles of peaceful coexistence, shall strive, together with all other States and peoples, for the achievement of a lasting peace based on justice and respect for rights, under which the human potential for constructive activity may flourish"*.

Let us make the Palestinian Declaration of Independence a reality in 2017, the year we will strive to end the Israeli occupation and so make a new, peaceful reality, for Palestine, Israel and the entire Middle East.

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