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The Israeli settlements in occupied Palestine and the Syrian Golan are no normal human settlements. An Israeli colonial settlement is a structural regime consisting of confiscated land, expropriated water resources, subsidised homes and other incentives, apartheid road networks and aggressive armed colonial settlers fomenting hatred of non-Jews.

The purpose of the current Israeli colonies is no longer disguised unlike that of pre-1948 colonies whose inhabitants had posed then as peaceful new neighbours utilising Arab warm hospitality while in fact researching their Palestinian targets and preparing for the zero hour to launch their campaign of indiscriminate killing of their unarmed hosts in compliance with premeditated ethnic cleansing plans.

By 1948, we lost three quarters of our homeland, Palestine, through these colonies, and therefore we urge you to understand our deep rooted opposition to the continued Israeli colonial activities which have led to the dispossession of Palestinians of their land and homes in the occupied West Bank including in and around the occupied Palestinian capital, Jerusalem. These activities render the peace process a mere process devoid of peace and a disguise for piecemeal Israeli devouring of the West Bank including Jerusalem.

We commend the international reaction to the recent Israeli colonial pronouncements undermining the valuable work and outcome of the Annapolis Conference and the Paris International Donor's Conference for the Palestinian State. What is needed now is a firm action to stop all Israeli colonial activities including in and around occupied Jerusalem.

The sight of armed Jewish officers in the old city of Jerusalem including in Via Dolorosa and in front of the Holy Sepulchre is extremely irritating to Christians worldwide who have just celebrated Easter. Israel, the occupying power, which misuses the Jewish faith for its colonial design including consolidating its grip on the holy city is not and cannot be the guardian of Muslim and Christian holy places. The scandal of Israeli illegal acquiring of church property is fresh in mind. You may wish to know that even the Israeli parliament is built on church land. In the holy land, it is we, Palestinians, who are carrying the cross and bleeding. We have faith, we have confidence, and we shall overcome the tyranny and oppression. The Israeli occupation will go in our history as a tragic chapter that reminds future generations of the evil that man can do to man.