



**BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA  
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**Statement by Ambassador Jorge Valero  
Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of  
Venezuela to the United Nations**

New York, December 1, 2009

**Item 16: "The Question of Palestine"**

The people and government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela join the clamor demanding, unequivocally and without further delay, the end of the Israeli presence in the occupied territories as a basic prerequisite to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East and for the definitive establishment of a free and sovereign Palestinian State.

Today we remember that 62 years ago, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the landmark resolution 181, calling for the creation of two states in the territory of Palestine. The State of Israel was founded in 1948 and has 61 years of existence. The Palestinian state is not yet born, being held back by the genocidal aggression of Israel.

On November 27, 2009, the Presidents of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez Frías and the President of the Palestinian National Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, met in Caracas to strengthen the historical ties between their peoples.

In welcoming President Abbas, President Hugo Chávez said:



"We salute the heroic Palestinian people, a peoples with deep roots of struggle, spirituality, and sacrifice. The Bolivarian Revolution from the first day has sided with the Palestinian people, we have always been on the side of the Palestinian people and their memorable fight against the U.S. empire, their lackeys and the genocidal state of Israel, which runs over, kills and attempts to exterminate the Palestinian people. All those who fight for justice on this planet are joining the voices of the Palestinian people. "

Meanwhile, in a speech before the National Assembly of Venezuela, the Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas said:

"We demand the international community and the world to understand that for sixty years, Palestine has wanted to live as a free, peaceful, independent and sovereign State like all other countries in the world." He added, "We have inherited the task of building a democratic state in Palestine where Jews, Christians and Muslims can live on equal terms."

The presidents of Venezuela and the Palestinian Authority signed a Framework Cooperation Agreement between the two countries, involving the development of social, economic, educational, agricultural, scientific and cultural programs, among others. They also signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the topic of university education for the training of Palestinian professionals in undergraduate and graduate programs at the various institutions of higher education in Venezuela.

For its part, Venezuela's National Assembly stated that:

"To achieve lasting peace in the Middle East, the State of Israel must recognize each and every one of the rights of the Palestinian Nation, put an end to the occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territories and the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip, dismantle the Israeli settlements and resolve the Palestinian refugee issue."

The slaughter of the Palestinian people, the house demolitions, the systematic destruction of orchards and olive groves, the dismantling and destruction of basic civil infrastructure and imprisonment of the Palestinian people must cease.