PA calls for invalidation of American vetoes at Security Council

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The Palestinian Authority on Saturday called to devise a “new formula” that would deny the US the right to veto resolutions at the United Nations Security Council.

The appeal came after the US on Friday [blocked](https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-blocks-arab-led-un-call-for-independent-probe-of-gaza-protests/) a Security Council statement supporting the right of Palestinians to “demonstrate peacefully” and endorsing Secretary-General Antonio Guterres’ call for an independent investigation into deadly protests in the Gaza Strip.

The ministry noted that the US move came in spite of the fact that the proposed resolution was “non-binding and modest.”

The PA ministry said that unless such a formula was devised, the Security Council will remain a “helpless hostage in light of blind American bias in favor of the occupation and will lose what’s left of its credibility.”

The PA ministry warned that failure to do so would “legitimize the law of the jungle and the concepts of bullying and power.”

US “bias” in favor of Israel, it added, constitutes “intentional protection and direct covering of the ongoing massacre perpetrated by the occupation authorities against our people who are participating in the peaceful March of Return along the borders of the Gaza Strip.”

According to the PA ministry, US support for Israel at the UN is also an “extension of hostile American positions against our people and rights, a continuation of its attempts to thwart any joint Palestinian-Arab moves at the Security Council, and a translation of its political positions and projects aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause.”

Hamas also condemned the US move at the Security Council. Hazem Qassem, a spokesman for the terror group that rules the Gaza Strip, accused the US of being “complicit in the aggression on our people.” He also accused the US of “encouraging the occupation to continue with its crimes.”

On Friday, Kuwait, which represents Arab countries on the council, circulated a draft press statement to member states that reaffirmed Palestinians’ right to peaceful protest, called for an independent and transparent probe of the clashes over the past week, and urged for restraint on both sides.

On Twitter, Kuwait’s UN mission said the UNSC “should address this matter and have a unified positions…. What is happening is a violation of international law.”

Palestinian UN Ambassador Riyad Mansour told reporters at UN headquarters in New York on Friday evening that 14 of the 15 council nations agreed to the statement, but the US, Israel’s closest ally, objected.