*Unofficial Transcript by Human Rights Voices*

November 23, 2015, UN Headquarters, New York

**374th Meeting of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People: Observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People**

LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES: [FIRST SENTENCE OF HIS REMARKS -- NO TRANSLATION PROVIDED] and the chairperson of the current meeting, Sir Edmond Sweet, Ambassador of the State of Palestine and the representative of the Secretary General.

Ladies and gentlemen, the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People comes every year to remind us of the long struggle of this people. It embodies their suffering for more half a century in an unprecedented manner in terms of oppression, coercion, occupation and injustice. The International Day of Solidarity defined by the General Assembly of the United Nations reminds us of the historical injustice visited on the Palestinian people on the same day in 1947 when the injustice decision to partition the Palestinian land against the will of its people.

This also reiterates the right of the Palestinians to self-determination and the establishment of its sovereign state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Our celebration today comes amidst political and diplomatic activities launched by President Mahmoud Abbas on the periphery of previous sessions, as well as the current session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. He submitted a request for full membership of Palestine at the United Nations. There is also the historic victory when attaining a non-member observer at the UN, and recently, the success to adopt a resolution to raise the flag of Palestine alongside other flags at the UN.

These significant steps are part of a political and diplomatic campaign supported by the Arab nations in order to achieve full recognition of the state of Palestine in line with ending the Israeli occupation and the two-state solution threatened by the continued violations on the part of Palestine of the rights of the Palestinian, as well as Israel's exceeding all limits and disregard of international law and international humanitarian law through its violations and blatant practices that run counter to international legitimacy and resolutions.

Arab calls and international calls were to launch the peace process between the two sides was met by the policy of building illegitimate settlements under international law, so these are in violations of the international law. There is also non-heeding of returning to the negotiation table to achieve the desired peace. And despite the consensus by the international community to achieve the two-state solution and to establish the contiguous, independent, sovereign Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital and while the world seeks to achieve just peace, the occupied Palestinian territory sees volatility since early October.

The Israeli occupation practices oppression against the Palestinian people in its worst form. This has led to the killing of many Palestinian people, most of whom are women and children. The Israeli right-wing extremist government made racist decisions allowing extremist settlers and the military to kill Palestinians and to use live ammunition against them, and to implement field executions against Palestinian civilians. This exacerbates the terrorism practiced by the Israeli occupation and extremist settlers.

Ladies and gentlemen, in view of these tragedies, and in absence of a just political solution, protection for the Palestinian people is imperative in light of the threats posed on the Palestinian people as a result of occupation and military machine.

The continued Israeli occupation of Arab and Palestinian territory is the main challenge before the international community to achieve peace and stability in the region and the world. There is -- this occupation represents a main cause for the spread of terrorism and extremist ideology in the region, as a result of failure to reach a just solution in line with the principles of international legitimacy and the purposes of the UN charter, international resolutions and Arab peace initiative.

Ladies and gentlemen, the practices of the Israeli occupation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, are null and void because they run counter to the rules of international law. The international community, in particular the Security Council and major powers, in particular the United States, should assume their responsibilities in order to put an end to prevarication and procrastination on the part of the right-wing extremist Israeli government, which continues its unilateral, illegal practices to Judaize Al Quds, Jerusalem, and to obliterate its nature, change the names of streets and jeopardize the blessed Al Aqsa mosque. Israel also aims at changing the historical nature of holy places.

The international community should move from condemnation, protests and overlooking Israeli violations to words, actual pressure, and to take empirical positions to face up to Israeli policies in terms of disregarding international resolutions.

The occupation is accelerating the imposition of a de facto on-the-ground to alter the signs and realities on the ground and to undermine potentials for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Despite this, the Palestinians have made efforts supported by the Arab side over 20 years to have a breakthrough from this impasse. However, all windows remain closed. This makes it incumbent upon the international community to confront these Israeli positions that undermine the launching of a negotiation track that is credible and meaningful.

Israel continues to exercise settlements, detain thousands of Palestinians, besiege Gaza Strip. This reflects the absence of a real political will on the part of the right-wing extremist Israeli government led by Benjamin Netanyahu, who rejected the two-state solution and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. He said that the Arab peace initiative that enjoys the consensus and support of the international community is behind his back.

This dissipates any hope for serious and sincere negotiations that addresses all final status issues based on international terms of reference and within a time-bound framework away from provisional solutions. This makes it incumbent upon the international community to assume its responsibility to achieve peace and to implement international resolutions.

Ladies and gentlemen, it's no longer acceptable that the Palestinian question, which the international community hopes to achieve a peaceful settlement for and to establish the viable Palestinian state, this should not remain contingent on the practices of Israel and the apartheid. It is high time for the Palestinian people to regain their stolen rights and to start the building of their country and to enjoy peace and security on a par with the nations of the world and to live freely in their homeland.

On this international occasion that consecrates celebration on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, we reiterate our solidarity with the just struggle of the Palestinian people. We support their march to regain their rights of freedom and independence. We call on all powers of justice and freedom to intensify their efforts to support this struggle and make it victorious. Thanks, Mr. President.