

**OBSERVANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY  
WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**

ANNOTATED LIST OF SPEAKERS

1. **H.E. Mr. Abdou Salam Diallo**  
*Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (Permanent Representative of the Republic of Senegal to the United Nations)*
2. **H.E. Mr. John Ashe**  
*President of the General Assembly*
3. **H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson**  
*Deputy Secretary-General, reading out a message on behalf of His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations*
4. **H.E. Mr. Liu Jieyi**  
*President of the Security Council (Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations)*
5. **Mr. Filippo Grandi**  
*Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East*
6. **H.E. Mr. Riyad Mansour**  
*Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations, reading out a message from His Excellency Mr. Mahmoud Abbas, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization and President of the State of Palestine.*

 BRIEF RECESS

6. **H.E. Mr. Palitha T.B. Kohona**  
*Chairman of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (Permanent Representative of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the United Nations)*

**7. H.E. Mr. Mohammad Khazae**

*Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, reading out a message from His Excellency Mr. Hassan Rouhani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries*

**8. H.E. Mr. Roble Olhaye**

*Permanent Representative of the Republic of Djibouti to the United Nations, reading out a message from H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Djibouti and Chairman of the Thirty-ninth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation*

**9. H.E. Mr. Tekeda Alemu**

*Permanent Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the United Nations, reading out a message from His Excellency Mr. Hailemariam Dessalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Chairperson of the African Union*

**10. H.E. Mr. Ahmed Fathalla**

*Permanent Observer for the League of Arab States, reading out a message from H.E. Mr. Nabil Elaraby, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States*

**11. Mr. David Wildman**

*Executive Secretary for Human Rights and Racial Justice with the United Methodist Church's General Board of Global Ministries, speaking on behalf of civil society organizations active on the question of Palestine*

STATEMENT BY

HIS EXCELLENCY Mr. ABDOU SALAM DIALLO

CHAIRMAN OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE  
RIGHTS OF THE PALSTINIAN PEOPLE

ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF  
SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

NEW YORK, 25 NOVEMBER 2013

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**Ladies and gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Committee, I should like to express all my great satisfaction and gratitude that you are joining us today on the occasion of the celebration of this important event – the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

Each year, this Day gives us the welcome opportunity to renew our brotherly solidarity with the Palestinian people and to review past events but also to look ahead to the future that we want to build for Palestine.

This Day also enables us to engage in reflection, which we hope will be fruitful, and to exchange views on the various measures that could be adopted by the international community, the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Quartet, the Secretariat, the United Nations agencies working on site, the Member States and civil society in order to give shape to the vision of a free, independent and prosperous Palestinian State living in peace with Israel.

The whole world still remembers the historic date of 29 November 2012 when, in the presence of the President of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud ABBAS, the United Nations General Assembly recognized the statehood of Palestine in resolution 67/19. Sixty-six years after the United Nations promised to grant Palestine the status of an independent State, you will agree that this recognition meets an internationally recognized requirement and corrects an anomaly.

It is time for Palestinian children to stop being hunted down and to be able to breath the fresh air of freedom, instead of the asphyxiating smell of tear gas.

Their right to life must be fully respected and not be dependent on the whim of anonymous soldiers.

Their parents must be able to look after them without having to wonder whether their home will still be standing tomorrow.

Palestinian famers must be able to visit their olive groves safely, without fearing that they will be destroyed and burnt down by settlers out of control.



It is time for the inhabitants of Gaza to be able to visit their loved ones on the West Bank from whom they have been unjustly separated by the blockade.

Like the followers of all the revealed religions, the Palestinians should be able to enjoy unfettered freedom of religion and freedom to visit the holy places of Jerusalem.

The Palestinian refugees should be able to leave the overcrowded camps and return to their homes for good.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Let us today make a joint commitment to work hard so that we can welcome the President of the Palestinian Authority in the near future as the Head of a fully sovereign State and a full-fledged member of the United Nations family.

Let us work together to seize what seems to be one of the last opportunities to promote the negotiated solution providing for coexistence of the two States, Palestine and Israel. Time is running out. The negotiating process is endangered by certain policies and particularly by the ongoing establishment of Jewish settlements.

In this connection, I wish to commend the specific and wise measures taken by the European Union to adopt stricter regulations, particularly as regards products from the Jewish settlements. All Governments and international organizations should follow this example and act accordingly.

At the same time, the Palestinian Government must be given aid and assistance to enable it to meet its obligations in the difficult context facing it. We must also help the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to effectively continue the work that it has been doing for many decades. Lastly, let us encourage the Palestinians to overcome their differences in order to facilitate a lasting peace.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

In order to discharge its growing workload more efficiently, our Bureau now has additional members. At the same time, our working group on contacts with civil society has resumed work.

Today we are officially inaugurating the United Nations Platform on the Question of Palestine, an on-line tool allowing coordination of our Committee's work with that of the nongovernmental organizations.

In addition, through the resolutions which I shall be introducing this afternoon in the General Assembly under the item "Question of Palestine", we shall request inter alia that 2014 should be declared "International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People". I urge your delegations to demonstrate their solidarity by voting for the four draft resolutions. The success of this international year will depend on the mobilization of Governments, civil society and the whole United Nations.

The Committee will continue to make all necessary efforts to effectively discharge the mandate given to it by the General Assembly until such time as the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people are fully realized. We remain committed and mobilized to achieve a permanent, just and lasting settlement of the conflict, based on the two-State solution, allowing Israel and Palestine to live in peace and security.

Thank you for your attention.



**Remarks**

**by**

**H.E. John W. Ashe**

**President of the 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations**

**General Assembly**

**New York**

**25 November 2013**

Special Meeting on the Occasion of the Observance of the International Day  
of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

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Chairman of the Committee,  
Deputy Secretary-General,  
President of the Security Council,  
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations,  
Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees  
in the Near East,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for the invitation to address this year's special meeting on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. This important Day of Solidarity has been observed annually since 1978, following a decision taken by the UN General Assembly the previous year.

On behalf of the General Assembly, I would like to thank the Committee for its dedicated work toward the achievement of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and for promoting international solidarity with the people of Palestine in their legitimate aspirations for independence and sovereignty.

This year's observation takes place while the renewed round of the Middle East peace negotiations is underway. We all hope the ongoing talks will lead to an understanding on all six permanent status issues, and to reaching a just and lasting settlement to the conflict. In this context, I reiterate our appreciation for the ongoing diplomatic efforts that are being complemented by a comprehensive Palestinian economic revival plan.

Excellencies,

Following its decision last year to admit the State of Palestine as a non-member observer State, the General Assembly welcomed the President of the State of Palestine, Mahmoud Abbas, as a Head of State for his address to the 68th session of the UN General Assembly, during



September's General Debate segment. Prior to that, in August of this year, the State of Palestine welcomed the Secretary-General as a State guest when he visited Palestine for the first time after the recognition by the General Assembly. In his presence, a country agreement was signed between the United Nations and the State of Palestine.

Another positive development, which took place soon after the resumption of negotiations, was the agreement to release 104 Palestinian prisoners who had been held in Israeli prisons for more than 20 years; this decision had been repeatedly called for by the General Assembly.

I am also encouraged by the recent commitment of Arab leaders to renew the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative, which holds the promise for regional stability and which can indeed become an important part of current peace efforts.

I call on the Governments and people of both Israel and Palestine to avoid actions that would undermine the fragile hope created by this renewed round of negotiations, and to cease and desist from any actions that are in contravention to international law and would pose a major impediment to peace in the Middle East and, more importantly, render the two-State solution impossible. Here, I specifically reference the issues of settlements and annexation.

Ongoing peace negotiations must be given a chance for peace to take root and flourish, but peace cannot be meaningful and durable without taking fully into account the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, which are key to the solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East. As the President of the 68th session of the General Assembly, I would like to reiterate that the General Assembly remains committed to a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine resulting in the two-State solution, with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security within recognized, pre-1967 borders.

Distinguished Delegates,

It remains the General Assembly's resolute position that the United Nations has a permanent responsibility with regard to the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in a

satisfactory manner in accordance with international law. In this context, the International Day of Solidarity continues to serve an important purpose of reminding the Member States of this collective international responsibility towards the Palestinian people and their free and prosperous future.

I urge Member States to maintain and enhance their support and publicity for the observance of this day of Solidarity and for the peaceful resolution of the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In this regard, I welcome the initiative of the Committee to request the General Assembly to proclaim the year 2014 as the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. Let us use that important initiative to redouble our efforts to create the necessary environment conducive for the successful outcome of the on-going peace talks.

I call upon all Governments, intergovernmental and civil society organizations to make 2014 the decisive year for achieving peace between Israel and Palestine.

Thank you.

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## Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

**LATEST STATEMENTS****New York, 29 November 2013 - Secretary-General's message on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People**

This annual Solidarity Day is an opportunity to reflect on the critical situation faced by the Palestinian people and to consider our collective contributions and responsibilities as Governments, international or civil society organizations, towards Israeli-Palestinian peace.

This year's observance takes place as Israeli and Palestinian negotiators work together towards the agreed objective of a peaceful, comprehensive settlement on all permanent status issues. I call on the international community to support the parties in this ambitious endeavour to fulfil the two-State solution, bringing about an end to the conflict. All parties must act in a responsible way and refrain from actions that undermine the prospects for successful negotiations.

I am alarmed by the increasingly dangerous situation on the ground. There has been an escalation of violence and incitement. Although I welcome Israel's release of prisoners as part of the agreement to renew talks, its settlement activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territory continues, and remains a cause for very grave concern. Announcements of thousands of new housing units cannot be reconciled with the goal of a two-state solution and risk the collapse of negotiations. Settlements are in violation of international law and constitute obstacles to peace. All settlement activity in the West Bank and East Jerusalem must cease. Measures that prejudice final status issues will not be recognized by the international community.

Meanwhile, Palestinians continue to be displaced through house demolitions in Area C of the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Of particular concern are developments in East Jerusalem, where this year alone, some 100 structures have been demolished, displacing 300 people. Hundreds more Palestinians are at risk because their homes were built without Israeli-issued building permits. This underscores the importance of Palestinian access to a fair planning and zoning regime. I remind Israel of its obligation to protect the population under occupation.

The situation in Gaza remains a source of serious concern. I reiterate my condemnation of all rocket fire into Israel, as well as of the construction of tunnels into Israel by militants. Following the recent tunnel discovery, Israel suspended the transfer of construction material into Gaza, including for humanitarian projects. While I recognize Israel's legitimate security concerns, I urge Israel to ensure that the needs of the civilian population in Gaza are met.

The UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), a lifeline for millions of Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank and the region, continues to face serious financial difficulties. I call on all donors, including new ones, to make or increase contributions to sustain UNRWA's vital and indispensable operations.

Palestinian unity based on the commitments of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the positions of the Arab Peace Initiative is essential for the two-State solution. I urge the Palestinians to overcome their divisions without delay in the interest of unity.

The goal remains clear – an end to the occupation that started in 1967 and the creation of a sovereign, independent, and viable State of Palestine based on the 1967 borders, living side by side in peace with a secure State of Israel. Jerusalem is to emerge from negotiations as the capital of two States, with arrangements for the holy sites acceptable to all. An agreed solution must be found for millions of Palestinian refugees around the region.

This past September marked the 20th anniversary of the Oslo accords. After two decades of talks and far too many adverse developments on the ground, I urge Palestinian and Israeli leaders to take the decisions that will usher in a political solution to this serious and long-standing conflict. The United Nations, through its engagement with all relevant partners,

including within the Quartet, stands ready to contribute to this process and to the two-State solution.

We cannot afford to lose the current moment of opportunity. I ask all in the international community to work together to translate the solidarity expressed on this occasion into positive action for peace and justice.

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**Statements on 29 November 2013**

- [New York, 29 November 2013 - Statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General on Yemen](#)
- [New York, 29 November 2013 - Statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General on the shelling against the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Damascus](#)



## UN Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

November 25, 2013

Security Council President (China)

*(unofficial transcription)*

Mr. Chairman John Ashe President of the General Assembly, Mr. Elisson, Deputy Secretary-General [inaudible] and Mr. Mansour Permanent Observer,

Let me begin by thanking the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for inviting me to address this meeting in my capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of November. The Security Council has always paid close attention to the Question of Palestine in supported efforts to seek a comprehensive resolution of that question through dialogue and negotiation on the basis of relevant UN resolutions, the principle of “land for peace”, the road map for peace in the Middle East and the Arab peace initiative so as to realize vision of the two states, Palestine and Israel, living side-by-side in peace and achieve comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East. Essential element of achieving peace and stability in the ME the solution to the Question of Palestine has stayed high on the Council’s agenda

For a comprehensive solution the parties should stay on the right course towards independent Palestinian statehood and a peaceful coexistence of the two states, Palestine and Israel. Negotiation should be the only way to achieve peace between Palestine and Israel. The principle of land for peace should be firmly upheld and the international community should provide important guarantees for the peace process to move forward. Last year saw Palestinians obtained the status of non-member observer state at the UN. At the same time Palestine and Israel still have major differences on a series of key issues that must be resolved in negotiations before a two state solution can be achieved. Throughout the past year the Council actively supported various parties’ efforts for the resumption of talks between the Palestinians and Israel.

It has continued to receive monthly briefings on the situation from Secretary-General special coordinator for the ME and from the Department of Political Affairs and held open debates on the ME on a regular basis. Council members commended the leaders of Israel and Palestine for their enormous political courage and efforts to move the peace process forward. Council members welcomed the resumption of peace talks between the Palestinians and Israel last July and expressed hope that both side would seize the opportunity to narrow differences so as to achieve substantive progress in the talks.

In the course of the year, Council members expressed concern over Israel’s continued construction of settlements in the OPT. Believing that such actions undermine efforts for peace talks and the viability of the two state solution. Council members stressed the need for the full fulfillment of obligations under relevant international law. Any unilateral action including construction of settlements will not be recognized by the international community, nor will prejudice the outcomes of peace talks.

Council members expressed concern at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the OPT including Gaza. They repeated their calls for full implementation of Security Council resolutions 1850 and 1860 and stressed the need to completely lift the Gaza blockade and ensure access of goods and people into Gaza and allow unimpeded distribution of humanitarian supplies throughout Gaza.

Council members applauded the UNRWA for effectively carrying out a huge amount of work to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian refugees and expressed hope that the international community would continue to increase the support of UNRWA. Sustained and steady development of the Palestinian economy is crucial for the realization of independent Palestinian statehood and regional stability.

Council members call on the international community to increase humanitarian assistance to Palestine, provide more support to the development of Palestinian economy and have greater confidence in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. The Security Council attaches importance to the efforts made by the Quartet to push forward the peace process. The Council welcomed the ministerial meeting last September as well as issuance of statement and expressed hope that the Quartet will continue to play its important role.

Council members laud the unremitting efforts made by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for the realization of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian People and the convening of conferences – including the UN international meetings in support of Israeli-Palestinian peace held last June in Beijing to bring the international community together to keep the good momentum going for peace talks.

Mr. Chairman,

The Security Council will make continued effort to facilitate just and equitable solution to the Question of Palestine and earnestly assume its responsibilities required by the relevant SC resolutions. We remain committed to the exercise of the inalienable legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and to the realization for the comprehensive and lasting peace and stability in the Middle East on the basis of the peaceful coexistence of the twp state, Palestine and Israel.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.

*Permanent Observer Mission  
of the State of Palestine  
to the United Nations*



البعثة المراقبة الدائمة  
لدولة فلسطين  
لدى الأمم المتحدة

**Message of**

**H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Abbas  
President of the State of Palestine  
Chairman of the Executive Committee of  
the Palestine Liberation Organization**

**on the occasion of**

**the International Day of Solidarity  
with the Palestinian People**

**25 November 2013**



H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations,  
H.E. Mr. John Ashe, President of the General Assembly,  
H.E. Mr. Liu Jieyi, President of the Security Council,  
H.E. Mr. Abdou Salam Diallo, Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the  
Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I wish to convey to you the greetings of the State of Palestine and the Palestinian people, and to all our friends participating in the commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People around the world. We commemorate this occasion one year after the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly, on 29 November 2012, of the historic resolution to raise the status of Palestine to a non-member observer State in the United Nations. Of course, our objective and endeavor remain full membership in the United Nations, which is our people's legitimate and legal right.

We underscore, in this regard, the call in General Assembly resolution 181(II) - by which historic Palestine was partitioned - for consideration to be given to the application for membership in the United Nations by either State. We recall further that Israel's admission to the United Nations in 1949 was accompanied by two conditions: its commitment to resolution 181(II) and the establishment of the Palestinian State, as well as to resolution 194(III), which was reaffirmed in the Arab Peace Initiative, with regard to reaching a just and agreed solution to the plight of Palestine refugees.

On this day, we renew our deep gratitude to all Member States, intergovernmental organizations, and civil society, as well as to all our brothers, sisters, friends and freedom and peace-loving peoples around the world, who continue to steadfastly stand by our people. We are grateful for their solidarity and support of the Palestinian people's legitimate national aspirations for the achievement of their freedom and independence and a just and lasting peace. Despite all the challenges, hardships and setbacks, we continue to have faith that a just peace can be achieved in our region and that right must prevail. Therefore, we appeal to you to continue to stand firmly for peace, for the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the right to self-determination, which the Palestinian people have too long been denied. It is high time to find the political will to act decisively for the realization of the inalienable rights of our people, including to independence in their State of Palestine, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.



Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since its inception, the United Nations has defended our cause, keeping it a priority on the agenda of the international community, has extended a helping hand to our people, and has legislated resolutions and recommendations that constitute the foundation that can not be bypassed in the search for just, lasting and comprehensive solution. The permanent responsibility of the United Nations towards the question of Palestine must be upheld until this question is satisfactorily resolved in all its aspects. In this regard, we express our deep appreciation of the efforts of H.E. the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and the efforts of the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, its Chair, H.E. Ambassador Abdou Salam Diallo of Senegal, as well as the Bureau, and all Members and Observers of the Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights, aimed at promoting realization of the rights of the Palestinian people and ensuring the achievement of a just, lasting peace.

Today, we also reaffirm our gratitude for the strong and principled resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Human Rights Council and other organs and bodies of the United Nations, including the International Court of Justice, all of which have contributed to safeguarding the rights of our people over many decades and addressed all facets of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, including, *inter-alia*, the Palestine refugees issue, the right to self-determination, the status of Jerusalem, the illegal Israeli settlement campaign, the unjust blockade imposed on our people in the Gaza Strip, and the issue of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. Here, we regret the lack of implementation of the countless resolutions regarding the question of Palestine, a fact that has clearly compounded the conflict over the many decades, inflicting grave hardships on the Palestinian people and the continued denial of their rights. This regrettable reality confirms the widespread conviction that there is indeed a double standard when it comes to United Nations resolutions regarding Israel, which are not implemented, allowing Israel to continue behaving as though it is a State above the law.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year marked the passage of 46 years since June 1967, when Israel forcibly occupied the remainder of historic Palestine - the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. We stress that this injustice must end and this military occupation of our land and our people must end. We reiterate our urgent calls to the international community to act forthwith to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with its legal obligations, relevant United Nations resolutions and international commitments and to cease its violations of international law and its illegal, aggressive and destructive policies and practices.

The insidious Israeli settlement campaign and the confiscation of Palestinian lands in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, the capital of our



State, must be completely halted. The demolition of Palestinian homes and the expulsion of Palestinians from their homes and properties must stop. Construction of the apartheid annexation wall must be ceased. Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails must be released. The unjust, inhumane blockade imposed on the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip must be lifted. The illegal actions and measures to Judaize East Jerusalem and alter or erase the Christian and Muslim Palestinian presence and identity in the Holy City must come to an end. All acts of violence and terrorism perpetrated by Israeli settlers against the Palestinian civilian population must be stopped.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

The State of Palestine continues to act with utmost responsibility to serve its people and uphold its legal obligations and international commitments. It has consistently acted in good faith for the sake of peace, repeatedly reaffirming its adherence to the longstanding parameters of the peace process - embodied in Security Council resolutions, the Madrid principles, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Roadmap - and its adherence to the two-State solution for the realization of an independent, sovereign, democratic, viable and contiguous State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, living side by side with Israel in peace and security on the basis of the pre-1967 borders.

We have expressed our readiness for decades to reach a solution to the conflict with Israel that conforms with international resolutions and initiatives through the establishment of our Palestinian State on only 22 percent of the territory of historic Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and to reach a just and agreed upon solution to the plight of Palestine refugees in accordance with General Assembly resolution 194(III).

We reaffirm these commitments and that readiness once again today. Despite diminishing hopes and the critical situation on the ground due to Israeli violations, we remain committed to the two-State solution, committed to the resumed negotiations - with full recognition for the vital support of the United States, the Quartet members, the League of Arab States and all other concerned countries, and our hand remains extended in peace. This is why we took the decision a few months ago to partake in a new round of negotiations with the Israeli side aimed at resolving all the final status issues and concluding a comprehensive and final peace agreement.

I assure you that we have begun these negotiations and that we shall continue them in good faith and we are committed to foster the most conducive atmosphere for the continuation of these negotiations in a meaningful and credible manner in order to reach a peace agreement that redresses the historic, unprecedented injustice that has befallen the Palestinian people since *Al-Nakba* of 1948 to the present day. We seek a peace agreement that leads to complete end to the Israeli occupation and the independence of the State of Palestine on all the Palestinian lands occupied in 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital; a peace agreement that ensures security and dignity for our people; a peace agreement that provides a just and agreed upon solution to the plight of Palestine refugees in accordance with General Assembly resolution 194(III), as called for by the Arab Peace

Initiative. In this regard, we stress that this historic initiative, which was widely received by the international community, constitutes a real opportunity for the accomplishment of a comprehensive regional peace, which gives Israel recognition by the Arabs in exchange for full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and implementation of the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On this day, which marks the sixty-sixth anniversary of the adoption of the partition resolution in 1947, the Palestinian people look forward with great hope to the future. They are determined to remain steadfast on their land and to realize their inalienable rights, confident that the international community will not allow the current opportunity to be lost to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict on all tracks, starting with the core and basis of this conflict, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. It is an opportunity to open a new era of cooperation and coexistence in the region where there is hope, peace, security, and prospects for a better future for all our children.

May peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.



*Translated from Arabic*

**Speech of Mr. Nabil Elaraby, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People**

29 November 2013

Your Excellency Ambassador Diallo, Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,

Members of the Committee,

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, it gives me pleasure, in my capacity as Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, to extend warm greetings to the Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, His Excellency Ambassador Abdou Salam Diallo, to the members of that Committee and to all those in attendance. I should also like to express my appreciation for Committee's efforts in support of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, particularly the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent State, with East Jerusalem as its capital, on the borders of 4 June 1967. I commend Ambassador Diallo for convening several meetings in the course of 2013, particularly in Rome, Addis Ababa and Beijing, to raise awareness of the Palestinian cause and its prospects.

In the build-up to this year's commemoration, the United States Secretary of State, John Kerry, initiated a political and diplomatic drive towards negotiations. We hope that the outcome will be positive, and that an independent, sovereign State of Palestine will be established with East Jerusalem as its capital. Yet despite the international consensus regarding that solution, Israel continues to defy and violate United Nations resolutions and human rights instruments. Israel continues its settlement policy, which is aimed at swallowing up the land of Palestine, while its Government protects the settlers and covers up their actions, which are utterly beyond the pale. Settlers have attacked Palestinian civilians and churches, mosques and clerics. More than 4,000 prisoners, including women and children, are detained in Israeli jails. Some of those prisoners have been detained for more than 25 years. Their abuse and inhumane treatment reveals the racist character of this right wing Government. Such actions are creating new facts on the ground that undermine and threaten the two-State solution and any real opportunity to establish a sovereign Palestinian State.

Israel also persists in its unilateral and illegal actions aimed at Judaizing East Jerusalem. It has demolished homes, changed the names of streets and places and threatened the Al-Aqsa Mosque through daily violations. It seeks to alter the demographic composition of the city and appropriate its Islamic and Christian history and heritage. Israel has continued to violate the sanctity of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and of the Occupied Territory as a whole. The Aghwar area, which has economic potential for the Palestinian State, has been a particular focus of confiscations and population displacement.

I should like to emphasize the responsibility of the United Nations and its relevant organizations and agencies to protect the Palestinian people and its property and help it fulfil its destiny. It is also important that the Organization should do everything it can to support the sacred and legitimate right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of its independent State.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Israel's settlement policies and practices have persisted, and a new condition has been imposed on the Palestinian side, namely that it should recognize Israel as a Jewish State. That situation shows that the Israeli Government does not have the genuine political will to enter into earnest negotiations on all core issues in accordance with international resolutions and terms of reference, within a definite time frame and eschewing partial, gradual and temporary solutions.

The international community aspires to a permanent solution to the Palestinian issue, the realization of a just and comprehensive peace and the establishment of a viable State of Palestine. But it is no longer acceptable for such a solution to depend on Israel's racist policies of occupation and hegemony, in the absence of a frame of reference for negotiations grounded in international law and United Nations resolutions. Israel has stepped up its illegal settlement construction on the territory of the future State of Palestine, creating an artificial situation for the Palestinian people, which has existed since the dawn of time. The Palestinian people and the Arab nation as a whole have always been in favour of negotiations for a just peace, but that stance has not met with any engagement or genuine will from the other side.

Ladies and gentlemen,

After nine rounds of direct negotiations, most of the Israeli leadership have made statements to the effect that the talks will not lead to a comprehensive solution. Their pretext is that the Palestinian side has not agreed to the condition that it must recognize the Jewish nature of the State of Israel. However, doing so would amount to denying the presence of the Palestinians residing in the Palestinian territories occupied in 1948, and would create a security panic in the event of Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank. In other words, the occupation in all its forms, with all of its aggressive practices against the Palestinian people, would be perpetuated forever.



Israel has maintained its unjust blockade on the Gaza Strip and continues to enforce an appalling array of alarming racial practices that call to mind the apartheid policy of South Africa. Such actions are having an adverse impact on the lives of the more than 1.5 million 1948 Palestinians. They are also part of an effort to impose and implement a policy of forced transfer and to deny the right of the Palestine refugees to return to their homes.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem, is occupied territory under international law and most recent the relevant General Assembly resolution adopted in September 2012. Palestine has been recognized as an observer State, and Israel's unilateral actions in the occupied Arab territories have been deemed null and void and without legal standing. The international community, in particular the Security Council, and the influential stakeholders, in particular the United States, must shoulder their responsibilities and put an end to the Israeli Government's strategy of evading and delaying the peace process and negotiations towards that end. We are extremely surprised that the international community is so powerless and ineffective before Israel's obdurate stance. I call on the Security Council to reject double standards and shoulder its responsibilities in a genuine and effective manner, reviewing its work methods so as to confront Israel's unilateral measures that leave no territory for the establishment of a Palestinian State in the context of a two-State solution.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is high time for the Palestinian people to gain its freedom and independence like the other peoples of the world. And it is time for the international community to work towards that legitimate goal by upholding justice and the values and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. The accession of Palestine to the status of non-member observer State should be a step towards affirming the right of the Palestinian people to its territory, which is occupied and not, as Israel would have it, disputed.

In turning to negotiations and to the United Nations in pursuit of its legitimate rights, the Palestinian people see a ray of hope in a world in which justice has been eclipsed and double standards prevail. If the current negotiations were to fail, the consequences for our region and the world would be disastrous. The international community must endeavour to prevail on Israel to engage with the objectives of the negotiations and seize this opportunity for success, which would benefit of the peoples of the world.

May the peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you.



**CHAIR OF  
THE COORDINATING BUREAU  
OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**



*(Please, Check Against Delivery)*

Statement by  
**H.E. Ambassador Mohammad Khzaee**  
**Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

**On behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement**  
**in the commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the**  
**Palestinian people.**

New York, 25 November 2013

**H.E. Mr. John Ashe,**  
**President of the General Assembly of the United Nations**

**H.E. Ambassador LIU Jieyi,**  
**President of the Security Council**

**H.E. Ms. Susana Malcorra,**  
**Chef de Cabinet of Secretary-General of the United Nations**

**H.E. Ambassador Abdou Salam Diallo,**  
**Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights**  
**of the Palestinian People**

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am honored to address this meeting on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for its important work in promoting the cause of the Palestinian people. The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people is a solemn occasion for renewing our commitment to a just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, a goal that has eluded us for far too long, with disastrous consequences. This day is a reminder that the question of Palestine remains the oldest unresolved issue at the United Nations. It is an occasion to reflect on the situation, a situation of continued



occupation, which has dispossessed the Palestinian people and subjected them to untold suffering and tragedy over the decades.

For many years, the Non-Aligned Movement has maintained a firm position of solidarity with the Palestinian people and its just cause, which has rejected Israel's illegal occupation of all of the Arab territories and has condemned the massive, flagrant and systematic violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law committed by the occupying Power. In this context, the Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement at the 16<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Movement in Tehran in August 2012 again reviewed the serious situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and reiterated their grave concern regarding the suffering of Palestinian people under the prolonged and brutal Israeli military occupation. Likewise, they rejected the ongoing deprivation of their inalienable rights, including the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination in their independent State of Palestine. The Movement also reiterated its position for the right of return of the Palestinian refugees based on UN resolution 194 (III).

NAM expresses its grave condemnation regarding the illegal Israeli practices aimed at altering the demographic composition, legal status, character and geographic nature of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, so as to facilitate de facto annexation of more Palestinian land. Israel, the occupying Power, has also continued to commit other violations which include the ongoing and routine demolition of homes and the forced displacement of Palestinians in the West Bank; the continued construction of the Wall and the encirclement of Palestinian communities by the wall; the dispossession of Palestinians from their agricultural land; the violence by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and their properties; and the lack of serious effort by Israeli authorities to prevent or hold settlers accountable for such violence.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The continuing illegal Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip has forced 1.7 million Palestinian civilians into poverty and isolation.

The devastating impact of the blockade and the repercussions of the trauma, destruction and displacement inflicted by Israeli military aggressions, particularly in 2008-2009 and 2012, have continued to impact every human right and to disrupt every aspect of life. We believe this blockade constitutes collective punishment of the entire Palestinian civilian population in Gaza, in defiance of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law and particularly in breach of its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The ongoing illegal Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory are a matter of grave concern. The recent provocative declarations made by Israel, the occupying Power, about plans to construct thousands more settlement units is further confirmation of Israel's refusal to cease its settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. In this regard, NAM calls for urgent action and practical measures by the international community, in particular by the Security Council, to compel the occupying Power to cease completely its illegal and destructive settlement campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East



Jerusalem, and to abide by all of its obligations under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, UN resolutions, the Advisory Opinion and its obligations under the Road Map in this regard.

The Movement expresses deep concern at the lack of progress in the Middle East peace process and calls for immediate and practical efforts to advance a fair and credible peace process based on the relevant UN resolutions, including Security Council resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Road Map. We stress that the peace process must ensure an end to the occupation of the Palestinian Territory and the other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including East Jerusalem; the exercise by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination in an independent, sovereign, and viable State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital; and a just solution for the plight of the Palestinian refugees based on General Assembly resolution 194 (III).

The Movement welcomes all efforts and initiatives aimed at realizing justice for the Palestinian people and stresses the importance of the admission of the State of Palestine as a non-member observer State by the United Nations General Assembly on 29 November 2012, and its admission as a Member State by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization [UNESCO] General Conference. We consider this development as a vote of confidence that Palestine meets the Charter criteria of statehood and is ready and willing to assume its Charter responsibilities. We express optimism that the granting of non-member observer State status to Palestine by the General Assembly will help accelerate the momentum in the Security Council regarding its pending United Nations application.

In conclusion, the Non-Aligned Movement reiterates once again its strong support and solidarity with the Palestinian people and reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the immediate restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to exercise its self-determination and sovereignty in its independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.



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**Statement by Ms. Kadra Hassan, First Counselor  
Permanent Mission of Djibouti to the United Nations, on behalf of the OIC Group at  
the UN General Assembly's Observance of the International Day of Solidarity with  
the Palestinian People**

*New York, November 25, 2013*

**Mr. Chairman,**

I am honored to speak on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation at the occasion of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. This international gathering held in November of every year, consistent with the UNGA's relevant resolution, is indeed a confirmation of continued international solidarity with the Palestinian people and the international community's responsibility towards the Palestinian cause.

I would like to seize this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the United Nations and all its organs for this day's celebration. In particular, I would like to thank Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, and the Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, His Excellency Ambassador Abdessalam Diallo, for his efforts and effective initiatives in support of the Palestinian cause, which contribute to the promotion of international solidarity and support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The OIC follows with utmost interest the resumption and developments of peace talks between Israel, the occupying power, and the State of Palestine, and is deeply concerned by the difficulties that Palestinians are facing on a daily basis.

Despite unanimous and historic international recognition of the State of Palestine at the UNGA on 29 November 2012, Israel, the Occupying power, has intensified its violations and aggressions against the Palestinian people, their territory, sacred sites and property. As we gather today to reaffirm our unequivocal support to the Palestinian inalienable rights, Israel pursues its policy of imposing new restrictions on the ground to change the demographic character of the city of Al-Quds, obliterate its identity and isolate it from its Palestinian environs in order to prevent its return to Palestinian sovereignty, through settlements, barricades, and the apartheid wall which constitute grave breaches of international law, undermine the contiguity, unity and viability of the State of Palestine, and jeopardize the prospects for achieving the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders .

By the same token, Israel intensified its aggressions on Islamic and Christian holy sites in the holy city of Jerusalem, especially in the Al-Aqsa Holy Mosque by breaking into its premises and preventing worshippers from accessing the mosque, by desecrating Islamic and Christian sites, distorting the



authentic history of the city, changing its landmarks, demolishing Palestinian homes and closing Palestinian institutions with a view to isolating occupied East Jerusalem from its Palestinian surroundings. Such illegal acts threaten to expand the conflict to a dangerous religious dimension, which could further destabilize the region. While strongly warning against such unacceptable and unprecedented practices and provocations, the OIC emphasizes that such attacks threaten to further exacerbate the situation in the region, and therefore require responsible international action to compel Israel to stop these serious attacks and violations.

**Mr. Chairman,**

While reaffirming its unconditional support to the Palestinian position, particularly its demands to stop Israeli settlement activities in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, the OIC calls upon the international community to put pressure on Israel, the occupying power, to stop the activities committed by extremist settlers who block roads, destruct property and seize land, uproot trees and desecrate holy sites, and other grave violations perpetrated against the Palestinian people, their lands and their property, which constitute organized terrorism that add to the record of violations committed by the Israeli occupation in the Palestinian territories.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The OIC follows also with deep concern the issue of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons, particularly the policy of torture and administrative detention whereby Israel, the occupying power, detains Palestinians for long periods without trial or charge. These represent a blatant violation of international law and require the international community to compel Israel, the occupying power, to fulfill its responsibilities and abide by the principles of international humanitarian law and to respect its international human rights obligations.

In the meantime, we reaffirm OIC's position that the continuing Israeli illegal blockade on the Gaza Strip is not only a continuation of injustice and aggression, but also constitute a collective punishment and a blatant violation of international humanitarian law, with grave humanitarian consequences on the Palestinian people, and should therefore be brought to an end.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In conclusion, I would like to seize this opportunity to reaffirm OIC's support and solidarity with the Palestinian people in their endeavor to regain their inalienable national rights, including their right to self-determination and independence, and to establishing their independent state having sovereignty on the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

OIC once again calls on the international community and the Security Council in particular to assume its responsibilities and take the necessary concrete action for an immediate and permanent cessation of the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people. We believe that a permanent peace between Israel and Palestine is a sine qua non if both peoples are to focus their energies and resources on developing their societies in peace, harmony and co-existence.

**Thank you Mr. Chairman.**



## International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

November 25, 2013

David Wildman, Executive Secretary for Human Rights and Racial Justice with the United Methodist Church's General Board of Global Ministries, speaking on behalf of civil society organizations active on the Question of Palestine

*(unofficial transcript)*

Mr. Chairman. Mr. Secretary-General, Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council,

Excellencies, sisters and brothers

I want to thank you all for the opportunity to be here and the invitation to speak at the events today commemorating and marking the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

I first became involved in solidarity with the Palestinian people just across the street in June of 1982 when the UN was meeting here on the second special session on disarmament. I was active in the peace movement and there were many million people out in central park and the streets to urge the member states to pursue disarmament. One week before that meeting, Israel invaded Lebanon. There was a division in the peace movement at the time. Some of the organizers said nuclear weapons only and no one will speak about the invasion of Lebanon. And in fact, no speaker that day mentioned Israel's invasion. We know the bloodshed that happened that summer and in September, the massacre of unarmed Palestinian refugees in Sabra and Shatila. When I saw the silence of my own involvement in the peace movement and of the international community to protect Palestinian refugees that was when I knew that I had to become active and take stronger action in support and solidarity with the Palestinian people. So that's how I first became involved. Today, I serve as the Executive Secretary for Human Rights and Racial Justice with the United Methodist Church.

There are three components that relate directly to Palestinian rights: I work with Israeli and Palestinian human rights groups and international human rights groups on the ground. I also am involved with advocacy work both in the US and globally, through the 'US campaign to end Israeli occupation' – the largest coalition here in the US that's based on human rights and also globally through United Methodist Church and others. And the third area if my work is in corporate accountability. As ecumenical religious shareholders we have met with many companies challenging their involvement and complicity with settlements, with the wall, and with the Israeli military and sustaining and profiting from the occupation.

So I've also been very involved in boycott, divestment and sanctions efforts that have been done by many sectors of the civil society and so I am happy to share some of those experiences today.

I also want to take this occasion to express my frustration and a challenge to us all. For too long the UN and the international community and civil society have expressed our solidarity with the Palestinian people through words without actions. In fact in some cases, actions that have supported Israel's occupation, speak much louder than our words. So today, I want to challenge us all by examining some of the actions of complicity by the international community that for too long has supported, intensified and even profited from, Israel's long standing colonization of Palestinian land and Israel's systematic discrimination against the Palestinian people. And second I want to [inaudible] some action by the civil society and by some and some governments seeking to end that complicity as a crucial and necessary step to ending the occupation and ending the long standing denial of Palestinian rights.

Last month I was in Gaza. It was nearly a year after the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas and yet [inaudible] The conflict was more open and overt. You may remember Annapolis as another peace process. In 2007, organizations have documented that the number of violent attacks by the Israeli military and by Israeli settlers were higher after the talks than they were before. Now during these talks there is a ray of hope. The European Union this summer put forth guidelines about ending connections of grants, financial activities and loans relating to the settlements. These are important guidelines but they are only as important as the force of member states that implement them. Now in the midst of the peace talks there is urging by the US and others to delay implementation of guidelines, to not place conditions and yet I want to recall when there is talk without actions it tends to go in the wrong direction. Now when we look at companies and I want turn now and talk more specifically about some of the companies and involvement with the occupation and with settlements.

I was also in the West Bank last month. We visited Palestinian fields of a number of villages outside of Bethlehem and Hebron and we were examining where raw sewage from some of the settlements was going down onto the fields and polluting the water, contaminating the fields. And while we were there, there was a "class trip" of 8-10 year old boys from the Israeli settlements nearby up on the hill walking through the very heart of the valley of Palestinian fields. The adults all had machine guns. We had cameras. We passed each other and I wondered to myself what are these young Israeli boys learning on this so-called class trip when they are walking on other people's land at gunpoint as an act of intimidation. If this was really about security why would anyone endanger the lives of children by walking through someone else's field, unless it's also about intimidation? These actions are rarely reported widely but are happening every day if one sits and listens to the stories from Palestinian villages.

Two other mentions. The power plant is a plan for the Negev adopted by the Knesset recently and may disposes as many as 70,000 Bedouins from their land. Words will not protect their homes and their families.

In fact the UN Committee to Eliminate Racial Discrimination warned against such actions of ethnic cleansing that would remove people from the area simply on the basis of their identity. In Area C you heard earlier that similar acts of dispossession are going on, of home demolitions and of separating increasingly Palestinians from their agricultural lands. There are waste dumps there, one of them operated by Veolia, a French company. Now these companies and these kinds of actions can't sustain themselves just by themselves. It takes a powerful military to enable this.



And Israel has one of the largest and strongest militaries in the world. Last year it was the 6<sup>th</sup> largest exporter of weapon as well. And if you look at the ration the percentage of gross domestic product of the arms industry, it is the highest percentage of any country in the world in 2012. Export has increased by 75% over the last 5 years. Now arms deals take at least two partners and so here I get to the complicity of the international community. One country after another around the world are buying and selling weapons, surveillance equipment, and security control mechanisms and technology with the Israeli military and arms companies. There are over 6,700 licensed arm dealers in Israel and over a thousand companies that are involved in so-called security exports.

Last we fell that this is only about situation in Palestine the UN adopted an arms trade treaty recently and this is important mechanism to try and monitor, regulate, document and reduce the extensive arms trade that's been do deadly in countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Europe as well as the US. So this is addressing arms industry and involvement of companies with Israel in the suppression of Palestinians is an important part of all of us working together to reduce the level of violence in arms in the world. Some of the arms dealers have identified the occupied territories as laboratory where they field test new weapons and measures of population security technology. Yotam Feldman an Israeli filmmaker has a movie called The Lab which documents some of this. Here I want to connect the EU guidelines that were put forth this summer and are due to go in effect in new year in 2014 with military deals. Let's apply these EU guidelines and the arms treaty to all of the arms deals going on with Israel and here I include my own government the US which provides 3 billion dollars a year in military aid. Each country has a responsibility to stop this

The UK issued a report on export control around arms in July. This report documents all licenses for 27 countries of concern in relation to human rights. There are over 12 billion pounds of contracts and licenses of various equipment with these 27 countries, one of which is Israel. 2/3 nearly 8 billion of contracts and licenses are with Israel and these needs to be examined . UK has started this process but it needs to go further. Now I know that on the UN we often talk about general human rights principles and are reluctant to talk about particular countries so maybe that is my responsibility as part of civil society to name some countries and as well as some companies. But I want to remind you where this is coming from. I told you I first got involved in 1982. In 1982 and again in 1983 the GA adopted a resolution calling for an end to all military aid, purchases and sales with the government of Israel, it called for sanctions. That was over 30 years ago. What would the situation be like for the Palestinian people and their exercise of inalienable rights today if member states and civil society have joined 30 years against an arms embargo? Sadly one of the great barriers to this is the US and its use of the veto in the SC. Since 1970 more than half of the vetoes the US has used were to block international action in relation to Israel's systematic violation of human rights violations in the region. That is a sad legacy and I would urge all SC permanent members to refrain from the use of the veto that blocks democratic process which is important and which GA lifts up.

As I turn to companies I also want to look at companies I want to look at my role the role of civil society. I visited Gaza and the West Bank. I go there regularly, I world on advocacy and yet every 2 weeks some of my money is invested in companies that sustain and profit from the occupation like Caterpillar, HP, Motorola Solutions, Veolia, United Technologies. It's not just



me, but its thousands of United Methodists, in fact millions of hard-working people in the US through pension funds are invested in companies. So there is responsibility on my part to end not only my personal complicity that my retirement is linked to the suffering of Palestinians in part, but also to end civil society organizations and these companies involvement. There is responsibility when one sees harm being done to end immediate involvement but also need to end the cause. So I am looking at two things. One not participating and so I worked on divestment. I've tried to move my own personal funds and I've encouraged others to divest.

After ten years of engaging with Caterpillar, with Motorola Solutions, HP, Microsoft, Viola, the list goes on of meeting with companies, filing share holders resolutions we found no significant movement by most of these companies but there has been movement in civil society. Last year the United Methodist Church joined the international efforts in boycotting settlement product and in boycotting companies that are involved in sustaining the occupation. The Presbyterian Church of the US also joined in boycotting settlement products. The [inaudible] voted to divest funds from companies that have refused to change. Quakers have divested as well. The United Church of Canada last year adopted a boycott. Three years ago the British Methodists, and the list goes on. Campuses students are calling on their trustees to divest funds at the UCLA and Hampshire College and many more. Trade unions.

Now there is also a UN guiding principles on business and human rights principles by John Ruggie. These have strong principles in them, but they are guiding principles and the question is power of implementation. I spoke with John Ruggie last year and asked him if government in action was not moving in changing complicity what about businesses and he said no amount of inaction by governments would absolve responsibility of businesses.

In closing, municipalities have joined the efforts of grass root civil society in dropping contracts with Veolia which lost 18 billion dollars in contracts, in part due to its ongoing involvement with the occupation.

Now I hope we can join together not simply in talking about peace but in just actions of solidarity as the GA called 30 years ago. Let us together stop arms deals that sustain Israel's blockade of Gaza and enable ongoing colonization of the West Bank. Let us stop corporations from profiting. These actions would not in fact apply double-standards, but rather end double-standards in the international community of holding Israel accountable to the same standard as other nations.

International civil society, municipalities, churches, universities, trade unions are all taking actions to end complicity to end occupation and apartheid practices.

The EU guidelines are a step in that direction, but only as far as they are implemented.

I close in thanking you for invitation and inviting all member states to join in solidarity action by ending our complicity in the ongoing colonization and human right violations against the Palestinian people. Maybe as we join our actions of boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS), our actions will speak louder than our words in solidarity with the exercise of inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. I thank you.