Statement by the League of Arab States Observer Yahya Mahmassani

Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

November 29, 2010

 Mr. Chairman, it’s a pleasure for me, first of all, to convey to you and to the members of the Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People the congratulations and appreciation of the Secretary-General of the Arab League, Mr. Amr Moussa ... greetings and thanks for the efforts deployed by the committee to show the solidarity with the Palestinian people and its right to self-determination.

Mr. Chairman, this Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is part and parcel of the efforts to deal with the dangerous situation that threatens the peace process and threatens the creation of two states and -- by preventing the establishment of a sovereign Arab Palestinian state and also to end this conflict between Palestine and Israel.

It is obvious, Mr. Chairman, that in its policy of colonization and settlements makes it -- the effort to make Israel be a Jewish state creates obstacles to the resumption of serious negotiations that would deal with all aspects of the final status of the ... international legitimacy and in accordance with terms of reference in the specific timetable and Palestinian ... including East Jerusalem governed by the provisions of Geneva agreements [?] and relevant international law on the process of foreign occupation ... measures taken by Israel are now ... new ... acquire no -- confer no rights.

And we call upon the United Nations competent organs to shoulder their responsibilities and to ensure the implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions in regard to peace negotiations. The basis of the conflict is the occupation of Arab territories. A just peace with Israel can be realized only through the withdrawal of Israel from those territories to the 1967 borders, including Arab Golan Syrian Heights with the occupied territories that are still occupied in southern Lebanon and the creation of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as capital, and the ... commitment as proposed in the Arab Initiative of Peace and the United Nations relevant ... resolutions.

We call upon the international community to exert its ... to do so immediately to put an end to the inhuman and unjust siege of Israel in the Gaza sector. The Israeli government is responsible for the freezing of direct negotiations launched by President Obama in Washington in 2010 and because of its persistence in settlements, illegal settlements, this has dangerous and negative consequences and impacts.

The direct negotiations between Palestine and Israel call for a complete freezing and stoppage of all settlement activities in Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem. Israel has defied international legality and it’s violated human rights documents. The international community must ensure that this is -- should be the key that would lead to necessary peace and stability in the region for the benefits of all peoples that have long suffered from war, and in order to stress that in order to find a lasting and just solution of the conflict, which has lasted for decades.

Because of the Israeli occupation and -- and this has led to the absence of stability in the regions, this is a very dangerous situation for international peace and security. Mr. Chairman ... of the Arab Peace Initiative has favorably responded to the efforts of President Obama to relaunch negotiations and the ministerial meeting on 22nd [?] July 2010 has sent a message to the ... authorities with regard to ... launching of series of negotiations.

These efforts and the favorable reaction by Arab and Palestinian peoples has encountered the attitudes of Israel, which rejects all initiatives that could lead to a settlement. As the Arab League greatly appreciates the position taken by President Obama in his statement of 23 September 2010 on the Palestinian people made in the General Assembly, and the League of Arab States ... cooperate with the United States authorities to ensure that what was provided for in this speech is carried out. And we call upon the United States to continue with its efforts to create favorable conditions and in particular stopping settlements and colonization so that the process of peace is allowed to proceed. I thank you, sir.