

The General Delegation of Palestine to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific

News

3rd Edition Newsletter

August 2020

Ambassador's Foreword:

A light at the end of the tunnel



The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Israel normalization agreement announced on 14th August, is not only a violation of the Arab Peace Initiative, international law, an insult to Palestinian human rights but also a reward to the brutal Israeli occupation. This is because it is founded on two major principles according to Netanyahu's claims: Peace for Peace and Peace through Strength. These foundations are based on power and naked power and on the claim that power creates legitimacy and subsequently leads to peace. Yet, it entirely disregards the role of international law, UN resolutions and human rights. It is obvious, based on the history of the Israel Palestine conflict, that peace without justice is naked power and unsustainable.

Regardless of this agreement and the hollow and short-lived promise by Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, to postpone the annexation plan of significant parts of the West Bank, annexation, in the form of de-facto annexation, continues to ruthlessly and unapologetically steal Palestinian land and demolish Palestinian homes. Mr Netanyahu's false promise is a facade to the continuing implementation of annexation on the ground which feeds Israel's gradualist colonial-settlement agenda based on power and naked power, with little to no regard for the rule of law, human rights and a genuine solution to Palestine Israel.

Similarly, this normalization agreement entirely undermines the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative, a cornerstone in promoting a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israel conflict on the bases of a two-state solution. Yet, the Arab people's aspiration for democracy and social justice, coupled with shifting dynamics within the region and changing international relations from power-based bilateralism to international law and rules-based multilateralism, will, ultimately, become the foundation and reference for achieving a peaceful and durable solution to this conflict.

Indeed, despite these injustices, there is a light at the end of the tunnel, in the face of unremitting and unjust actions, the resilience, steadfastness, and courage of the Palestinian people has demonstrated that they will not be forgotten and will stand steadfast against grave injustices. Alongside the Arab people and international community, a sustainable solution, based on international law, human rights, UN resolutions and justice, will be founded.

As our great poet, Mahmoud Darwish said: "Upon this land there is that which deserves life"

Izzat Abdulhadi

Ambassador of the State of Palestine

Head of the General Delegation of Palestine to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific

Ambassador's Foreword: A light at the end of the tunnel

This month at the Delegation:

- De-facto annexation continued
- Meetings with members of parliament
- Circulation of documents regarding UAE-Israel normalization agreement.
- Donation of items acquired during WW2
- The GDOP Internship Program
- Reports written by the GDOP
- GDOP meeting to discuss an intern's research report
- GDOP meeting with DFAT

Palestine in the news:

- Annexation continued
- International Youth Day
- Continuous bombardment by Israeli Occupation Forces on Gaza

Response by the Palestinian Leadership towards the UAE-Israel normalization agreement

PLO-NAD FAQ Sheet

Additional information and sources



This month at the Delegation



The GDOP continued its counter Annexation Advocacy Campaign “De-facto Annexation Continued”

The GDOP developed a second Advocacy Campaign to counter Israeli de-facto and de-jure annexation. This campaign aims to highlight the impact and consequences of de-facto annexation on Palestinians and their land and on the future of a solution for Palestine and Israel.

This campaign will examine the continuing de-facto annexation and the impact this has on the ground.

It will also further examine the impact that de-jure annexation would have on the West Bank and the various scenarios around this.

Meetings with Members of Parliament continued advocacy campaign

Ambassador Abdulhadi continued to hold meetings with parliamentarians throughout August. The meetings discussed the continued threat of the Israeli annexation plan of significant parts of the West Bank.

The two parties agreed to follow up on this regard and hold future meetings regarding this matter.

Circulation of Documents regarding the UAE-Israel Normalization Announcement

The GDOP remained abreast of the developments of the UAE-Israel Normalization announcement. It also circulated relevant statements and positions by the Palestinian Leadership to the Palestinian community.





Donation of items acquired in Palestine during World War 2

The Ambassador Abdulhadi and Delegation staff hosted a meeting at the premises of the General Delegation with a member of the Australian community, Ms Danielle Gehrmann, who donated items which were originally acquired in Palestine during World War 2 by the grand uncle of Ms Danielle Gehrmann during his military service in Palestine 1941.

These items will be displayed at the Delegation's premises. Displaying and celebrating embroidery items, such as these, is an essential part of demonstrating the ingenuity and rich history of the Palestinian people.

The GDOP Internship Program

The GDOP offers a successful and enriching internship program. GDOP interns often complete an internship alongside their undergraduate or graduate studies and have the opportunity to work alongside Delegation staff and enrich their knowledge of diplomacy, international relations, politics of the Palestine-Israel conflict and the relations between Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific and Palestine.

The GDOP is currently hosting 4 interns, who are all working on research policy projects and/or other activities related to the work of the GDOP.

Reports written by the GDOP

Throughout August, the GDOP developed and presented to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Palestine, timely and informative reports on current issues and events related to Palestine within the context of Australia and New Zealand.

Reports include:

- **The reactions of the Australian and New Zealand government towards the UAE-Israel Normalization Announcement.**
- **The impact of COVID-19 on Australian economy.**
- **Australian and New Zealand reactions to the Israeli threat of de-jure annexation of significant parts of the West Bank.**
- **Senator the Hon Marise Payne visit to the United States.**
- **The participation of the Australian Prime Minister the Hon Scott Morrison in ASPEN Forum.**



The GDOP held a meeting to discuss one of our intern's research reports entitled: "Indigenous Australian and Palestinian Experience: A Comparison"

It is important for the work of the GDOP to develop strong relationships with indigenous Australian communities, to share common experiences.

During this meeting, GDOP staff held an in-depth discussion about how to further develop the work of the GDOP in this regard.

Within this context that main talking points included:

- **Assimilation and integration of Indigenous Australians and Palestinian peoples.**
- **Cultural Appropriation**
- **The concept of terra nullius/nobody's land.**
- **Differences and similarities between the Indigenous Australians and Palestinian people.**

Key points

Similarities

- Impact of national holiday celebrations
- Continued suppression of the transfer of intergenerational knowledge
- Shared experiences in cultural and institutional discrimination





The GDOP Staff met with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

On 26th August, Ambassador Abdulhadi and GDOP staff held a meeting with the Director of the Levant section at DFAT, Ms Kate Luxford, Assistant Director of the Levant Section, Mr Andrew Dollimore and Ms Pilar Cossio at the premises of DFAT to discuss Australian aid to Palestine.

The GDOP and DFAT held a fruitful discussion about the current Australian aid assistance to Palestine and future aid assistance.

Main points of discussion were AMENCA 3 program, scholarships to Palestinian students, Australian Aid Investment Plan and Australian support to UNRWA.

The two parties agreed to meet again to further discuss these matters.



Palestine in the news

Annexation continued

Despite the apparent postponing of the Israeli annexation plan, the on the ground, de-facto annexation continues to ruthlessly and unapologetically steal Palestinian land and demolish Palestinian homes. To feed its gradualist colonial-settlement agenda based on power and naked power, with little to no regard for the rule of law, human rights and justice.



Dr. Saeb Erakat ... الدكتور صا · 12 Aug. ▾

Israel hasn't stopped daily demolitions of Palestinian homes and properties even under #COVID19. They're implementing annexation on the ground, violating their most basic obligations under international humanitarian law. Sanctions on Israel are a must
[#Jerusalem](#) [#Palestine](#)



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International Youth Day

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) issued a press release on the occasion of the International Youth Day, demonstrating the situation of youth in the Palestinian society.

Link below:

<http://www.palestine-australia.com/assets/Uploads/Palestinian-Central-Bureau-of-Statistics-Press-Release-International-Youth-Day.pdf>

Continuous bombardment by Israeli Occupation Forces on Gaza

Gazans are paying the price after Israeli defence forces have fired missiles into Gaza, resulting in the destruction of a number of sites and banned commercial imports into the territory.

With only humanitarian goods being allowed through Gaza's one commercial crossing, the population of 1.9 million are left with about 4 hours of electricity per day, down from 8 hours.

Unfortunately, the international community keeps silent on this Israeli assault and the loss of innocent lives. It's time to lift the blockage on Gaza.



Response by the Palestinian Leadership towards the UAE-Israel Normalization Agreement

Statement by President Abbas

"We are not concerned about the nonsense that is going on here or there, particularly in the last days when a tripartite agreement was announced between the UAE, Israel and America, which is based on the normalization of relations between Israel and the UAE," said the President. "This is what the agreement is about, and this is the purpose of this particular issue. But then they added the term annexation and attempted to give the others and the world the illusion that the UAE had come up with a great achievement for us and that is the rejection of annexation, as if the Palestinian issue is only about annexation while they disregard everything else: the rights of the Palestinian people, the Palestinian state, the two-state vision, holy Jerusalem that was annexed and its annexation was declared. They disregarded all of this and said we came to you with a halt to annexation, so be happy, Palestinians. This is deception, and this is totally unacceptable. We consider it a stab in the back of the Palestinian cause."

Original link below to Palestine News and Info Agency (WAFA) article:

<http://english.wafa.ps/Pages/Details/118918>



Dr. Mohammad Shtayeh ... · 3d

The US-sponsored UAE-Israel agreement is a flagrant departure from the Arab consensus and an encouragement for Israel to continue its aggression/intensify its settlement activity. The decision to freeze Israel's annexation plan was due to the strong Palestinian opposition to it.

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Dr. Saeb Erakat ... الدكتور صائب عرابي · 1d

The Palestinian leadership rejected and denounced the UAE recognition of Israel and called upon it to revoke this historic strategic mistake.

Unofficial Translation of the Statement by the Palestinian Leadership towards the UAE-Israel Normalization Agreement:

The Palestinian leadership declares its unequivocal rejection and condemnation of the shocking American-Israeli-UAE declaration about the full normalization of relations between the Israeli occupying State and the United Arab Emirates in exchange for a dubious claim regarding the temporary suspension of the plan to annex Palestinian territory and extend Israeli so-called sovereignty over it. This announcement comes amid Israel's insistence on entrenching its occupation, annexing Palestinian territory, Jerusalem in particular, and desecrating holy places, including and most notably the Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound.

The Palestinian leadership regards this act as a destructive blow to the Arab Peace Initiative, Arab and Islamic Summit resolutions and international law. It is also an assault on the Palestinian people and a betrayal of their rights to an independent Palestinian state on the borders of June 4th 1967, including Jerusalem, and Palestinian holy sites.

Original link below:

<http://www.dci.plo.ps/en/article/16125/Unofficial-Translation-Statement-by-the-Palestinian-Leadership>



Dr. Ashrawi: US-Israeli agenda for the region is destructive and delusional

(August 24, 2020): "The Trump administration is attempting to reinvent Israel as a military, security, intelligence and economic power in the region enjoying normal relations with Arab governments in spite of its occupation and escalating crimes against the Palestinian people. In addition to doing Israel's bidding, the regional visits by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and White House advisor Jared Kushner to Tel Aviv and several Arab capitals are taking place in the context of subverting the imperatives of peace and the values of justice and human rights. This is clearly visible in the Trump administration's denial of the Palestinian people's rights and aspirations. At the same time, the US administration is reformulating the dynamics of regional politics to serve short-term and narrow political and electoral interests.

Full Press Release below:

<http://www.dci.plo.ps/en/article/16171/Dr-Ashrawi-US-Israeli-agenda-for-the-region-is-destructive-and->



Dr. Mohammad Shtayeh ... · 3d

The Emirati people are our people. The UAE flag is an Arab flag. Our rejection of normalization does not affect our respect towards our people in the [#UAE](#). [#Palestine](#)

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451



Hanan Ashrawi @DrHananA... · 6d

May you never experience the agony of having your country stolen; may you never feel the pain of living in captivity under occupation; may you never witness the demolition of your home or murder of your loved ones. May you never be sold out by your "friends."



Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Negotiations Affairs Department FAQ sheet

“The UAE-Israel Agreement to Normalize Relations”

The PLO Negotiations Affairs Department issued a comprehensive and important factsheet in light of the Israel-UAE agreement to normalize relations.

The Factsheet responds to the following important questions:

1. Can this deal be described as "historic diplomatic breakthrough (that) will advance peace in the Middle East region"?
2. What are the implications of the UAE's acceptance of normalizing relations with Israel?
3. Isn't the UAE free to do what is in its best interest – that this deal can create a better region as it believes?
4. Is this deal in line with the Constitution of the UAE, the Arab and Islamic summits, and the Arab Peace Initiative?
5. What are the implications of calling this tripartite deal the "Abraham Accord"?
6. What does the deal say about Jerusalem?
7. Will this deal even halt Israel's illegal annexation plans?
8. What are the position and asks of the State of Pal-



Link in English :

<https://www.nad.ps/en/publication-resources/faqs/uae-israel-agreement-normalize-relations>

Link in Arabic:

<https://www.nad.ps/ar/publication-resources/faqs/%d8%a5%d8%aa%d9%81%d8%a7%d9%82-%d8%aa%d8%b7%d8%a8%d9%8a%d8%b9-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%b9%d9%84%d8%a7%d9%82%d8%a7%d8%aa-%d8%a8%d9%8a%d9%86-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%a5%d9%85%d8%a7%d8%b1%d8%a7%d8%aa-%d9%88%d8%a5%d8%b3%d8%b1%d8%a7%d8%a6%d9%8a%d9%84>

Embassy of the State of Palestine

The General Delegation of Palestine to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific

Additional information and sources

Presidency: Jerusalem, independent Palestinian decision are “not for sale”:

http://english.wafa.ps/Pages/Details/118878?fbclid=IwAR3WK30G7VrNxZdEE785u_8QubCylfaZlqwroWyTK5cb59p64ZsyhyKrRVs

At the leadership meeting, President Abbas says Palestinian issue is not only about annexation:

<http://english.wafa.ps/Pages/Details/118918>

Unofficial Translation: Statement by the Palestinian Leadership

<http://www.dci.plo.ps/en/article/16125/Unofficial-Translation-Statement-by-the-Palestinian-Leadership>

Israeli forced demolish family home in East Jerusalem

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/11/israeli-forces-demolish-family-home-east-jerusalem-171122151533900.html>

Main Points of the Paper titled “Once Again: Upholding the National State is the Basis for All” by Dr. Nasser Al-kidwa (10/8/2020):

<https://yaf.ps/page-1646-en.html?fbclid=IwAR30CHTGsBhMBCwELwaSMtAe8oirfflnacxLLuxlluBnnclYWOkL-5gNcCY>



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