



November 2020

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Image: Hiking in the West Bank

Ambassador's Foreword:



UN International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

The United Nations International Day of Solidarity is held annually on the 29th of November. On this day in 1947, the partition resolution (181) was passed in the UN General Assembly. This resolution sanctioned the establishment of two sovereign states, Israel and Palestine.

Unfortunately, since that day, the establishment of one of those states has come at the expense of the ambitions and dreams of

statehood of those who should by now be enjoying their rightful share.

This day is an acknowledgement of the dispossession, distress and injustice that commenced in earnest in 1948, triggered by that resolution, and that continues today. It is a day for the international community to acknowledge the overwhelming support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and is hence fitting that such a day should be the prime occasion to express solidarity with an oppressed but unbroken people.

It should also make us think: when and how will this conflict be resolved? Indeed, the international community has had that answer to that question for a while now, and this day is yet another opportunity to shine a light on it.

The recent visit by the US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo to an Israeli settlement near Ramallah (Psagot), illustrates that the outgoing Trump administration will no longer consider Israeli settlements to be inconsistent with international law and a green light by the administration to annex the West Bank. Following Jerusalem, UNRWA and the Golan Heights, Israel has even less incentive to sue for peace. These policy shifts have re-written international law to suit the interests of one country at the expense of the integrity of the rules-based order.



Time and again it has been stressed: if one party insist on stealing the other's land, forcibly evicting its inhabitants and demolishing their homes, and building Jewish-only mini-cities on that land, any meaningful and lasting resolution becomes impossible, especially one in which co-existence and mutual respect form the basis. Israel's model of religious entitlement and superiority simply isn't sustainable. These Israeli violations of human rights should be confronted on a global level through bold positions and, more importantly, concrete actions.

Unfortunately, the failure of a two-state solution will result in a one-state reality, where Israel will necessarily have to relinquish one of its founding principles as a democratic and Jewish state. Either a non-democratic Israeli apartheid state would be formed, with the segregation of Palestinians; or a democratic non-Jewish state would be formed, because if Palestinians are given equal civil and political rights, then it will no longer remain an exclusively Jewish state. This consideration has never been more urgent than it is right now, as we stand at this critical and unsettling juncture, still waiting for our independent homeland to emerge.

It is still a long and mountainous journey to achieving Palestinian national rights and enjoying the crisp air of statehood, but a well-paved road is still there, and it remains open.

Izzat Abdulhadi

Ambassador of the State of Palestine

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



Israel advances plans to escalate strategic settlement expansion in the occupied East Jerusalem

The GDOP is deeply alarmed by the recent decision by Israeli authorities to escalate settlement expansion through the construction of an entirely new settlement in the Occupied East Jerusalem lands.

On 15 November 2020, the Israeli Ministry of Construction and Housing and the Israel Lands Authority called for tenders for 1257 settlement units, to expand developments on the existing settlement of Givat Hamatos.

The significance of this location lies in its strategic positioning between East Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Certainly, the construction of these settlement units would consequently surround the Palestinian neighborhood of the town of Beit Safafa and seal it off from the occupied East Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Indeed, denying Palestinians freedom and access to their lands and creating further obstacles in establishing a viable and contiguous Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Undoubtedly, this is a very dangerous development in Israel's continuing de facto annexation processes and will subsequently make the viability of a just two state solution unattainable. It is of deep concern and fear that Israel intends on escalating and accelerating its illegal settlement expansion in the short period before President-elect Joe Biden assumes the role of President of the United States on 20 January 2021. In this context, Dr Mohammad Shtayyeh, the Prime Minister of the State of Palestine, tweeted: "We warn the unprecedented dangerous developments in Israeli colonial project that seem to be an escalated and intense attack plan for the ten weeks to impose new status quo before Trump leaves office".

The General Delegation of Palestine to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific kindly calls on the Australian government to uphold its support to UN Resolutions and International Law, in particular Security Council resolution 2334 and other relevant UN resolutions, by condemning Israel's illegal expansionist policy and continuous annexation processes. In addition, to recognize, without further delay, the State of Palestine on 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital in order to save a viable two-state solution.

In this regard, the GDOP also sent letters to the Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne and the New Zealand Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta, in addition to Foreign Ministers in Pacific countries.

GDOP Press Release: <http://www.palestine-australia.com/assets/Uploads/Press-Release-Annexation-17112020.pdf>

The labelling of settlement products as "Made in Israel" is a war crime

The recent announcement by the US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo that products manufactured in the illegal settlement will be labelled as "Made in Israel", constitutes as a war crime, under international law and a violation of UN resolutions.

This latest development is representative of the de facto recognition by the US of Israel's annexation of its illegal settlements. It is also the de facto progression of Trump's so called Peace Plan.

"[Pompeo's] announcement is a finishing of Netanyahu's policy of annexing settlements and consequently the occupied West Bank to Israel, which is a precise implementation of the "deal of the century".—*Riyad al-Malki, 20 November*



This month at the Delegation

Palestine Independence Day

"The State of Palestine is the state of Palestinians wherever they may be. In it they shall develop their national and cultural identity and enjoy full equality in rights." - *Palestinian Declaration of Independence, 1988*

The 15th of November is the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the State of Palestine. The Declaration was written by poet Mahmoud Darwish and publicly proclaimed by Yasser Arafat in Algiers in 1988. As a result, this Declaration led many states to formally recognise the State of Palestine.



Condolences

It is with great sadness that the Palestinian leader Dr Saeb Erekat, Secretary General of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation and member of the Central Committee of Fatah, passed away on 10th November at the age of 65 years.

Dr Saeb Erekat spent years defending Palestinian national rights and was an experienced negotiator for justice in all regional and international forums.

Ambassador Izzat Abdulhadi and the Delegation's staff offer to his Excellency President Mahmoud Abbas, to the family of Dr Saeb Erekat and his esteemed relatives the warmest condolences. Our prayers and thoughts are with them at this difficult time.

Book of Condolences

On 13th and 16th of November, the General Delegation of Palestine to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific, received deep condolences from embassies and high commissions on the passing of Dr Saeb Erekat.

"We call upon our great people to rally to the banner of Palestine, to cherish and defend it, so that it may forever be the symbol of our freedom and dignity in that homeland, which is a homeland for the free, now and always."

Palestinian Declaration of Independence, 1988



29 NOV INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

“On this International Day of Solidarity, let us reaffirm our commitment to upholding the rights of the Palestinian people.” - United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

The General Delegation of Palestine, in coordination with the United Nations Information Centre, and the Council of Arab Ambassadors hosted an event to commemorate the United Nations Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 29th November 2020, in Canberra.

The event began with a reception at ANU’s Badger and Co., followed by speeches by Ms Louise Aubin, Regional Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and Acting Director of United Nations Information Centre in Canberra, H.E. Ali Kraishan Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Dean of the Council of Arab Ambassadors and H.E. Izzat Abdulhadi Ambassador of the State of Palestine. The function was MC’d by Counsellor Ms Suheir Gedeon.

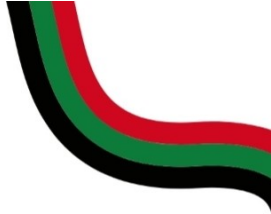
It also included the screening of the film: “1948: Creation and Catastrophe”. Through the personal recollections of Palestinians and Israelis, this film accurately recounted the events of 1948 and provided a first-hand account of the creation of a state and the expulsion of a nation. Overall, the event was a great success.

1948: Creation and Catastrophe Film Trailer link: <https://www.1948movie.com/>





On this day in 1947, the partition resolution (181) was passed in the UN General Assembly.



Today we acknowledge the dispossession and injustices that were triggered by resolution 181 and that continue to this day.



It is an opportunity for the international community to show its support for an oppressed but unbroken people.



The United Nations International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People in New Zealand

The Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa worked with the Palestinian community of New Zealand to hold a solidarity event in Auckland to commemorate this day.

The event was attended by more than 200 people, and received positive feedback. Dr Abdullah Joudeh, of the Palestinian Community of New Zealand and John Minto, Chair of the Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa organised the event, and was MC'd by Moana Maniapoto.

This event included a performance by Dakba dancers and speeches prominent figures.



Palestinian Community and Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته
 نتشرف بدعوتكم للمشاركة في إحياء اليوم الدولي للتضامن مع الشعب الفلسطيني
 المساهمة مساء ٢٩/١١ التاريخ: يوم الأحد الموافق

An invitation to join us on United Nations International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

MC – Moana Maniapoto – Entertainer and TV Host

Speakers include:

- Dr Abdullah Gouda – Palestine Community of New Zealand
- John Minto – Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa
- Reihana Robinson – Poet
- Golriz Ghahraman – Foreign Affairs spokesperson for the Green Party
- Gia Ngatai-Smith and Rahman Bashir – For the People
- Janfrie Wakim – Palestine Human Rights Campaign
- Roger Fowler – Spokesperson Kia Ora Gaza
- Mike Treen – National Director Unite Union
- Suraya Esau – Human right activist with experience from apartheid South Africa
- Tayyaba Khan – Human Rights Activist (Women in leadership 2019)
- Diego Lewin – Jewish human rights activist
- Margalit Toledano – J Link international Jewish network
- Nicholas Rowe – UNESCO Co-chair in Dance and Social Inclusion
- Paula Jones and Shirley Allan – Film makers linking Maori/Palestinian cultures



Held on 29th November, the annual Run for Palestine, hosted by Australians for Justice and Peace in Palestine (AJPP), was a great success.

This annual event is a great family day out to raise awareness of the Palestinian plight and 100% of proceeds are donated to humanitarian programs in Palestine.

The event began at Lennox Gardens Canberra and included a 5km/10km run or walk around the iconic Lake Burley Griffin.



The event began with speeches by members of the Palestinian community followed by a speech by Ambassador Abdulhadi.

This event was a great opportunity for the Palestinian community and supporters to come together to partake in a community event and was attended by many members of the Palestinian community, Palestinian supporters and diplomatic representatives.





Australia voting in the United Nations

It is unfortunate and regrettable that Australia abstained on a basic UN resolution on the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. The resolution has overwhelming votes (165), including all European countries, UK and Canada.

National Unity Day of Russia

On 10th November, Ambassador Abdulhadi attended a celebration event to commemorate the National Unity Day of Russia.

Farewell Lunch

On 19th of November, Ambassador Abdulhadi, Ms Suheir Gedeon and Ms Noura Saleh, attended a farewell lunch for the Deputy Head of Mission at the Egyptian Embassy in Canberra.

Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture—Jesus Laughing and Loving Exhibition

On 13th November, Ambassador Abdulhadi and staff attended the Jesus Laughing and Loving Exhibition, an art exhibition displaying an important collection of paintings, known as ‘the laughing Jesus paintings’.

“This exhibition is a step towards liberating the person of Jesus from the traditional other-worldly image so that his power and relevance for modern living might be rediscovered and enjoyed.” - *Reverent Tim Costello AO*





Additional information and sources

Al-Malki: Pompeo's labelling of settlement products as "made in Israel" is a war crime

<https://english.wafa.ps/Pages/Details/122057>

Six-Month Report on Demolitions and Seizures in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem Reporting Period: 1 January – 30 June 2020

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/palestine-occupied-palestinian-territory-west-bank-and-gaza-strip_en/88877/Six-Month

Statement by High Representative Josep Borrell on settlement expansion in Givat Hamatos

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/88727/statement-high-representative-josep-borrell-settlement-expansion-givat-hamatos_en

Israel advances plans to escalate strategic settlement expansion in the occupied East Jerusalem

<http://www.palestine-australia.com/assets/Uploads/Press-Release-Annexation-17112020.pdf>

Dr. Hanan Ashrawi: Labeling Settlement Products as 'Made in Israel' is endorsement of Land Theft and Plunder

<http://www.dci.plo.ps/en/article/16961/Dr-Hanan-Ashrawi-Labeling-Settlement-Products-as-'Made-in-Israel'-is->



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- **Website:** <http://www.palestine-australia.com/>
- **Instagram:** gdopalestine

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