

**OIC/ACM-2011/PAL/DEC.**

**Declaration on Palestine**

**Issued by the Annual Coordination Meeting  
of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States  
UN Headquarters**

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We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, met in New York on 23 September 2011 on the margins of the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly and considered the dynamic developments regarding the Question of Palestine and the just cause of the Palestinian people. Accordingly, we declare the following:

We reaffirm the centrality of the cause of Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif to the entire Islamic World, and we express our full support for the just cause of Palestine. We reaffirm our full support for the peaceful, political and diplomatic efforts of the Palestinian people to achieve their legitimate national aspirations and inalienable rights, including their right to self-determination and the right of the Palestine refugees to return.

We express firm support for the ongoing efforts to mobilize the international community to redress the longstanding injustice endured by the Palestinian people. In this connection, we support the efforts to expand international recognition for the State of Palestine on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June 1967 borders at all levels, including at the United Nations. We welcome the important decisions made recently by numerous States to recognize the State of Palestine on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June 1967 borders, and we urge States that have not yet done so, to uphold their responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations and to recognize the State of Palestine as soon as possible. We call upon Member States to support the efforts aimed at the admission of Palestine to full membership in the United Nations to allow it to take its rightful place among the community of nations and further assist the Palestinian people towards the realization of their right to self-determination and freedom in their independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

We reiterate our strong condemnation of the continuing oppression of the Palestinian people and colonization of the Palestinian land by Israel, the occupying Power, and we call for the end of this illegitimate forty-four year military occupation. We condemn the continuing illegal Israeli policies and actions, including all settlement activities, construction of the wall, demolition of Palestinian homes and eviction of Palestinian families, which are aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and particularly at altering the status and Arab and Islamic character of Occupied East Jerusalem. We reaffirm that all of these Israeli measures and actions constitute flagrant breaches of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, and of numerous relevant United

Nations resolutions, and we demand that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately cease all such illegal measures and activities. We call for the implementation and full respect of the Fourth Geneva Convention, relevant United Nations resolutions and the 9 July 2004 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and we call for the protection of the Muslim holy sites therein and respect for their sanctity and for freedom of access for worshippers.

We also reiterate strong condemnation of Israel's continued imposition of its illegal blockade against the Gaza Strip and demand that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately cease its unlawful collective punishment of the Palestinian people and completely lift its blockade of the Gaza Strip and comply fully with its obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law. In this regard, we reiterate our call for the protection of the Palestinian civilian population from the aggressions of the occupying Power.

We express grave concern about the thousands of Palestinian civilians imprisoned and detained by Israel, the occupying Power, including at least 300 children, and condemn this aggressive, inhumane practice, which constitutes a flagrant contravention of the Fourth Geneva Convention. We stress the international responsibility in this regard and emphasize the importance of the role played by the OIC, the United Nations and the international community as a whole in raising awareness of the question of Palestinian prisoners held by the occupying Power and in calling for their release, stressing that this issue is a critical, practical benchmark in the achievement of a just peace. We urge the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to take all appropriate steps to effectively address this subject.

We pledge to remain seized of the matter and to exert all necessary efforts until justice and a peaceful, comprehensive and lasting solution to the Question of Palestine is achieved in all its aspects and the Palestinian people realize their legitimate aspirations and inalienable rights in their independent State of Palestine, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

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