



**Statement of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation
on the occasion of the International Day of
Solidarity with the Palestinian People**

Geneva- 29 November 2021

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

We are celebrating the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People in the midst of the continued practices of Israel, the occupying power, to perpetuate its colonial occupation of the Palestinian land through its policies based on aggression, forced displacement, ethnic cleansing, settlement, Judaization, land confiscation, destruction of property, and denial of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people.

On this occasion, I reiterate the OIC rejection and condemnation of the Israeli occupation measures and illegal practices to impose new facts on the ground, alter the demographic character of the occupied city of Al- Quds, obliterate its Arab and Islamic identity, expel Palestinian citizens from their homes in the neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan, desecrate its sanctities, violate the freedom of worship therein, and attempt to isolate the city of Al- Quds from its Palestinian surroundings.

In this regard, it is necessary to put an end to these Israeli practices, which constitute a flagrant violation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, fueling violence, extremism and racism and igniting a religious conflict with unpredictable repercussions.

I would also like to emphasize, in the same context, that the principle of State sovereignty should not be a pretext for consolidating the Israeli colonial occupation and legitimizing its policies that violate international law and relevant UN resolutions, including UN Security Council Resolution 2334 of 2016.

In this regard, we call on States, which opened or moved their diplomatic or consular missions to Al- Quds to respect their obligations and streamline their positions with the provisions of international law and resolutions of international legality regarding this city.

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Distinguished delegates,**

Israel, the occupying power, continues to defy the international community by implementing the policy of building and expanding settlements in the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967. It undermined, and continues to undermine, efforts and opportunities to achieve peace and the possibility of implementing the vision of the two- state solution.

Furthermore, its conduct constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and relevant UN resolutions.

The plight of Palestinian prisoners inside Israeli detention centers continues to be an issue of denial of justice, and a crime embodied in the most heinous and inhumane and unjust practices committed by the Israeli occupation against Palestinian prisoners.

I would like to emphasize, in this regard, that the continued impunity of Israel, the occupying power, has entrenched the absence of justice, and emboldened Israel to commit more crimes and violations of the rights of the Palestinian people.

In this regard, the OIC calls on the UN to assume its responsibilities towards holding Israel accountable for its crimes and continuing violations of international law, and to end its occupation of Palestinian land.

**Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,**

While renewing, on this occasion, our call to countries that have not yet recognized the State of Palestine to do so promptly, as a contribution to achieving peace, we stress the need for engaging international community, in particular the Middle East Quartet, in sponsoring a political solution, based on the agreed references, including the principles of international law, relevant UN resolutions and the Arab Peace initiative.

In conclusion, we renew the OIC support and solidarity with the Palestinian people in their quest to restore their inalienable national rights, including the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent State on the 1967 borders, with Al- Quds Asharif as its capital, and to find a just solution to the issue of Palestinian refugees, in accordance with the UN resolution 194.

I thank you.