



**Meeting of H.E. Izzat Abdulhadi
Ambassador of the State of Palestine,
Head of the General Delegation of Palestine to Australia,
New Zealand and the Pacific
and
The Hon. Mike Baird, Premier of NSW**

30 March, 2016

Palestine is committed to the two-state solution: two democratic, sovereign and secure states on internationally recognised borders, with a resolution of the issues of East Jerusalem, water and refugees. The continuation of Israel's Occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza is the main obstacle to the two-state solution, the root cause of on-going conflict and as such, is the key barrier to peace. Israel's continuation of the occupation is creating a de-facto one-state reality on the ground that is destroying the two-state solution.

To achieve peace and save the two-state solution, Palestine is pursuing an integration strategy consisting of multilateral diplomacy, state building, national unity and non-violent resistance.

In light of this, the General Delegation of Palestine calls on the Government of Australia to:

1. Recognize the State of Palestine
2. Support Palestine's internationalisation strategy and multilateral diplomacy
3. Support the Palestinian and Arab initiatives at the United Nations, including international protection for the Palestinian people and condemnation of Israel's settlement activities
4. Continue to support Palestine's state building, towards the establishment of a viable and democratic Palestinian state
5. Recognise and condemn Israeli violations of human rights and international law, and encourage Israel to adhere to its legal and moral obligations as the Occupying power
6. Pressure the Israeli government to intervene to end the extreme violence perpetrated by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians, and to end the use of excessive force and extrajudicial killings by its military occupation forces
7. Pressure the Israeli government to end its unjust and institutionalized siege on the Gaza Strip
8. Apply a differentiation policy, in line with that of the European Union, between trade and economic relations with Israel within its internationally defined borders, and illegal Israeli settlements on Occupied Palestinian land
9. Use Australia's strong relationship with Israel to help end the 49-year Occupation as a pre-requisite for peace and a Palestinian state

The Continuation of Israel's Occupation and Destruction of the Two-State Solution

The continuation of Israel's Occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza; an occupation that is now in its 49th year, is the *root cause of conflict and the main obstacle to the two-state solution*. Israel systematically violates the fundamental human rights of the Palestinian people in contravention of international human rights law and humanitarian law.

Israel deliberately and systematically impedes Palestinian state building through action such as the arrest and administrative detention of Palestinian Members of Parliament, destruction of infrastructure, restrictions on movement and persistent violation of Palestine's borders, and theft of Palestinian land and natural resources.

Settlements are damaging the possibility of peace by attempting to permanently seize Palestinian land and make impossible, a secure, sovereign Palestinian state.

Israel's actions are creating a de-facto one-state reality consisting of a democratic and participatory system of government for Israeli citizens, alongside military rule and a discriminatory apartheid system for Palestinians.

This increasingly entrenched reality heightens the need for the international community to pressure Israel to respect and implement its obligations under international humanitarian law and commit to peace through recognising and upholding the Palestinian people's right to self-determination in an independent, sovereign state along the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Palestine's Commitment to the Two-State Solution: Multilateral Diplomacy, State Building and Non-Violent Resistance in accordance with International Law

Palestine is committed to saving the two-state solution.

Palestine's internationalisation strategy engages multilateral diplomacy and its potential for coordinated and collaborative action to save the two-state solution.

Palestine's internationalisation strategy includes the following core components:

1. Support for multilateral approaches to peace such as the New Zealand and French initiatives
2. The Palestinian and Arab League strategy to push for a resolution on settlements and international protection for the Palestinian people in the Security Council
3. Palestinian membership of international treaties including the Geneva Conventions and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as a means of strengthening democracy, equality and accountability

4. Bringing Israel's breaches of international humanitarian law to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ)
5. Encouraging states to recognise their own responsibilities under international and humanitarian law
6. Encouraging bilateral recognition of the State of Palestine
7. Active and effective international advocacy

Palestine continues to strengthen its *State Building and Democracy Promotion* through:

1. The establishment of transparent and accountable institutions
2. The promotion of democracy, good governance, human rights and social justice
3. Unification with Hamas based on the aims and vision of the PLO political program
4. Adoption and implementation of international treaties, namely human rights and international law conventions as a means of strengthening democracy, equality and accountability
5. Providing services to the Palestinian people to increase their steadfastness and capacity to develop their communities and their state

The General Delegation of Palestine asks Australia to recognize that there cannot be peace until Israel's occupation of Palestine is ended, and Palestinians are able to fully exercise their right to self-determination in an independent, viable and secure state. To achieve their right to sovereignty and peace, the Palestinian people are committed to exercising their internationally enshrined 'right to resist' through non-violent and peaceful protest.

Palestinian rights to resistance include:

1. The internationally enshrined right to resist
2. The right to exercise non-violent political protest and civil disobedience
3. The non-violent tactic of enforcing restrictions on settlement products and financial relationships with settlements. This approach is in line with moral human rights standards and is historically ethical and legitimate

Conclusion:

The policy and vision of the Government and the people of Palestine is that of two democratic and sovereign states on internationally recognized borders, with a resolution to the question of East Jerusalem, water and refugees.

The international community including Australia must support Palestinian efforts to save the two-state solution through multilateral diplomacy, state building and non-violent resistance to Israel's occupation.

As part of the international community and as a good global citizen, Australia must recognize the Israeli occupation, including the siege of the Gaza Strip as the root

cause of the conflict, and take bilateral and multilateral action to enforce Israel's compliance with international law as the non-negotiable foundation for peace.