



**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. Mr Murray McCully  
Foreign Minister of New Zealand**

**15 March, 2016**

Palestine is committed to the two-state solution: Two democratic, sovereign secure states on internationally recognised borders, with 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 internationalisation strategy consisting of multilateral diplomacy, state building, and non-violent resistance.

**In light of this, the General Delegation of Palestine calls on the Government of New Zealand to:**

1. Support Palestine's internationalisation strategy
2. Support the Palestinian and Arab initiatives in the Security Council, including international protection for Palestinian people and condemnation of Israel's settlement activities
3. Recognize the State of Palestine
4. Implement international and humanitarian law in relationship to Israel's responsibilities such as, the illegality of settlements, settlement products and commercial and financial relationships,
5. Continue to support Palestine's state building, to see the establishment of a viable and democratic Palestinian state
6. Pressure the Israeli government to intervene to stop the extreme violence perpetrated by Israeli settlers, and to end its current policy of extrajudicial killings and executions in response to the current circle of violence
7. Pressure the Israeli government to its unjust, institutionalized siege on the Gaza Strip, to an end

## **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 49<sup>th</sup> 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 democratic and participatory system of government for Israeli citizens, with 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 Palestinian people's right to self-determination in an independent, sovereign state on 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 is composed of core elements of:**

1. Support for multilateral approaches 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 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 ICC and 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, effective international advocacy

**To build the state, Palestine continues to strengthen *State Building and Democracy Promotion* including:**

1. Building through transparent and accountable institutions and the
2. Implementing democracy, democratic practices, 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 the state

There will not be peace until Israel's occupation of Palestine is ended and Palestinian's are able to fully exercise their right to self-determination in an independent, viable, sovereign and secure Palestinian state. Palestinian people are committed to Non-violent resistance and peaceful protest and the exercise of their rights in accordance within international law.

**These rights include:**

1. The internationally enshrined right to resist
2. Non-violent political protest and civil disobedience
3. The non-violent, morally and historically legitimate tactic of enforcing restrictions on settlement products and commercial and financial relationships with settlements

**Conclusion**

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

The international community including New Zealand 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, New Zealand must recognise 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.