

MESSAGE ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

Ankara, 29 November 2023

Mr Cheikh Niang
Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of
the Palestinian People

Dear Mr. Chairman,

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, I would like to express once again, personally and on behalf of my country, the strong support we extend to the just cause of our Palestinian brothers and sisters.

Unfortunately, we are observing this important day at a time when international law has been trampled on in Gaza, war crimes have been committed against Palestinian civilians, and shameful scenes for humanity have been enacted.

The fact that approximately 16 thousand Palestinian civilians have lost their lives in Israeli attacks on Gaza since October 7, 2023, and that more than 6 thousand of them have been unaccounted for, deeply wounds the conscience of all humanity. I once again wish Allah's mercy on those who lost their lives.

The inhabitants of Gaza, who have been forced to live under a severe blockade for many years, are now being evicted from their homes under bomb attacks and forced to flee their own lands. The attacks on Palestinian civilians by Israeli security forces and terrorist settlers in the West Bank have also reached a dangerous stage. Every crime committed against civilians constitutes a grave violation of international law and international humanitarian law.

The agreement on a brief humanitarian pause to the conflict on November 22, 2023 has been a positive step in terms of alleviating the bloodshed in Gaza and the suffering of civilians. However, I would like to reiterate that our sincere expectation is the permanent end of the hostilities and the beginning of a process towards a just and lasting peace based on a two-state solution.

In the face of this humanitarian catastrophe, the international community needs to step up its humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians. It is also vital that aid is delivered to Gaza in sufficient quantities and in an unimpeded manner.

As Türkiye, our support for the Palestinian People continues to increase at the national level. Besides, our assistance and support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), whose activities we attach great importance to, is also constant. I also call on members of the international community to increase their contributions to the Agency during this difficult period. I would like to take this opportunity to convey my condolences for the members of the United Nations who lost their lives as a result of the attacks in Gaza.

Without ensuring a just settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, lasting peace and stability in the Middle East is impossible. An independent, sovereign and geographically contiguous State of Palestine based on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, must come into being and take its place in the system as an equal member of the international community.

Türkiye, along with a number of other countries, is ready to undertake all kinds of responsibilities for the realization of a lasting, viable and comprehensive solution aiming at a just peace to be reached with the consent of the parties.

We also follow with appreciation the work of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to defend the fundamental rights and freedoms of Palestinians. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you success in the works carried out by your Committee.

I would like to underline that our support for the oppressed Palestinian people will continue resolutely and I greet you with my most heartfelt feelings.

Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN
President of the Republic of Türkiye