

Aboul Gheit's speech on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

Cairo: 29 November 2023

General Secretariat headquarters

Mr. President,

Your Excellencies the permanent representatives,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We meet today, on 29 November, on the occasion of the “International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People” to affirm solidarity with the Palestinian people in their just struggle to restore all their legitimate, inalienable rights. This is the day that coincides with the anniversary of the United Nations’ decision in 1947 to partition Palestine, and the consequent Nakba (Catastrophe) of the Palestinian people and the establishment of the State of Israel in the wake of a complete crime of ethnic cleansing committed by Zionist gangs, in a continuing historical injustice that the Palestinian people have been exposed to for more than seven decades, and whose scenes and episodes are repeated today: killing, destruction and displacement.

We convene today in the midst of an unprecedented global crisis, bearing witness to a barbaric and ruthless Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people. Since last October, this aggression has manifested in a relentless series of egregious war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity. Shockingly, these atrocities unfold openly before the eyes of the international community, which appears powerless to halt these offences.

The savage Israeli onslaught on the people of the Gaza Strip has subjected them to imminent death, whether through aerial bombardments or the severance of vital life necessities. The pressing question persists: How much longer can the collective human conscience endure these harrowing massacres and the overt campaign of annihilation driven by Israel's vengeful thirst for bloodshed against innocent Palestinian civilians?

Is it not time to halt the aggression and crimes, dismantle double standards and the shield of impunity, and advocate for the prosecution of Israeli officials in international courts for perpetrating war crimes against the Palestinian people? I wholeheartedly welcome the formal complaints lodged by numerous nations with the International Criminal Court for investigation into these crimes. I stress the urgency of expediting the investigative procedures and holding all Israeli officials accountable for their involvement in these crimes.

Your excellencies,

We stand at a pivotal moment in the history of the Palestinian issue, one that the extremist Israeli war government is intent on extinguishing. It seeks to obliterate any prospect of attaining security, peace, and stability in the region by persistently denying the Palestinian people their rightful freedoms and independence. The continuation of this aggressive war poses a significant

threat to regional stability, necessitating a resolute and genuine stance from all international actors. It is imperative to counter these malevolent plans, put an end to Israeli aggression, safeguard Palestinian civilians, and swiftly deliver urgent and essential humanitarian aid to meet the pressing needs of the people in the Gaza Strip.

We have consistently sounded the alarm regarding the failure to enact a just resolution to the Palestinian issue spanning over 76 years. This failure extends to confronting the crimes perpetrated by the Israeli colonial occupation and its systematic policies aimed at undermining the two-state solution. Moreover, certain entities' unwavering support for the Israeli occupation and its immunity from accountability has exacerbated the situation. Neglecting these warnings has precipitated a severe deterioration, compelling the need to deter the occupation and compel its compliance with international will for an immediate and sustainable ceasefire. A genuine and substantive peace process must be initiated, ultimately bringing an end to this abhorrent racist occupation — the sole path towards achieving security and stability in the region.

The dire humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip necessitates collaborative efforts to address the pressing needs of its residents. I acknowledge the endeavours of Arab countries, along with the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, in providing humanitarian, health, and relief support to the Palestinian people in collaboration with the Egyptian Red Crescent. The General Secretariat commends the contributions of all nations, relief agencies, and grassroots initiatives in delivering relief aid to the Gaza Strip, with a special acknowledgment of the Arab Republic of Egypt for facilitating the reception of aid convoys and their transfer into Gaza. It is imperative to sustain and augment the volume of aid to effectively address the humanitarian requirements of the people in the Gaza Strip.

Your Excellencies,

On the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, I extend heartfelt gratitude and respect to all those globally who stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people — nations, and individuals alike. Their resounding voices champion the values of truth and justice, advocating for a ceasefire, the safeguarding of Palestinian lives, and the imperative for the Palestinian people to reclaim their rightful freedom and independence. Their tireless efforts have had a profound impact on the stances adopted by their respective nations, and their voices shall endure as beacons of righteousness and truth.

I also extend a warm welcome to the Spanish government's expressed intention to recognise the State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital. I call upon all countries yet to take this step to swiftly do so, underscoring their commitment to the two-state solution and bolstering the prospects for peace in the region.

In conclusion, we stand in solemn appreciation for the souls of the righteous Palestinian martyrs, who fell victim to the Israeli war machine and aggression. Our profound respect extends to the unwavering Palestinian people — prisoners, and wounded, encompassing men, women, the elderly, and children — for their unwavering courage, legendary steadfastness, and sacrifices in upholding their land and rights. Their resilience is a testament to their dreams and

aspirations for a brighter future marked by peace and freedom, within the boundaries of their independent state, with its capital in Al-Quds Al-Sharif.