



الأمانة العامة

Secretariat of Arab League

Council Affairs

Unofficial Translation

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**Statement by
Council of the League of Arab States
at its Extraordinary Session at Permanent Delegates Level
concerning
the Continuous Israeli Aggression on Gaza Strip and the Occupied
Palestinian Territories**

Cairo: 15th November 2018

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The Council of the League of Arab States at the Permanent Delegates level, upon request of the State of Palestine and consent of the Arab States, convened an extraordinary session chaired by the Sudanese Republic on 15th November 2018 at the General Secretariat headquarters in Cairo.

The Council deliberated on the continuous crimes committed by Israel (the occupying Power) against the Palestinian people, their territory, holy places and inalienable rights, most recently the brutal military Israeli aggression that took place on 11th November 2018 against the Palestinian people in Gaza Strip and throughout the Occupied Palestinian territories, targeting the lives of Palestinian civilians, residential and media buildings and the civilian infrastructure, by use of Israeli brutal military force. Dozens of martyrs and injured unarmed civilians fell victims of this recent Israeli offense within the series of war crimes and crimes against humanity perpetrated by Israel (the occupying Power) against the Palestinian people.

Having been briefed by the Chair of the Current Session (Sudanese Republic), the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, the Permanent Delegate of the State of Palestine, Permanent Delegates and Heads of Delegation of Member States, the Council:

- 1- *Condemns*, in the strongest terms, the widespread systematic Israeli crimes against unarmed Palestinian civilians, which represent war crimes and crimes against humanity, according to the international humanitarian law, the international human rights law, and the charters of international tribunals, the latest of which was the brutal Israeli attack that took place on 11th November 2018 against the

- Palestinian people in Gaza Strip and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, causing death of dozens of martyrs and injured among unarmed civilians;
- 2- *Holds* the Israeli government accountable with full legal and criminal responsibility for these crimes and *emphasizes* the need to bring perpetrators to international justice without delay;
 - 3- Provides full support and assistance, and pays tribute to the resilience of the Palestinian people on their land and to their just and legitimate struggle in defense of their lives, territory, holy places and legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination, the right of return and the establishment of the independent State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital on the borders of 4th June 1967, against the crimes, schemes and practices perpetrated by Israel (the occupying Power);
 - 4- *Reaffirms* adherence to peace as a strategic option, and to the resolve of the Arab-Israeli conflict pursuant to international legitimacy resolutions, international law and the Arab Peace Initiative of 2002 with all its elements, which stipulated that comprehensive peace with Israel and normalization of relations must be preceded by an end to its occupation of the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied since 1967 including East Jerusalem, its recognition of the State of Palestine and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, inter alia, the right to self-determination and the right of return and compensation for the Palestinian refugees and a just solution to their cause according to UN General Assembly Resolution 194 (1948); as well as rejection of any agreements or initiatives to resolve the conflict contrary to the Middle East Peace Process international terms of reference;
 - 5- *Calls on*, once again, the Security Council to bear its responsibilities to stop the constant Israeli aggression and to take action towards the Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people, urging the Security Council to bear its responsibilities in safeguarding peace and security, and to implement its resolutions pertaining to the protection of unarmed Palestinian civilians, particularly Resolutions 904 (1994) and 605 (1987), which stipulate that the Fourth Geneva Convention applies to the Occupied Palestinian Territory since 1967 including East Jerusalem and, in this context, *expresses* appreciation and support for the efforts exerted by the State of Kuwait, the Arab member of the Security Council that, in cooperation with the friendly State of Bolivia, called for a Security Council Session on 13th November 2018;

- 6- *Calls on* the UN General Assembly and Secretary-General to implement its Resolution 20/10- ES/RES/A (2018) on the protection of Palestinian civilians, through viable options contained in the recent report of the UN Secretary-General in this regard; and *urges* countries and institutions of the international community to engage in the protection of Palestinian civilians and to create a practical and effective mechanism for the implementation of the General Assembly's Resolution and the UN Secretary-General's report.
- 7- *Urges* the Human Rights Council and the High Commissioner for Human Rights to follow up on works of the International Commission of Inquiry that was established to investigate the Israeli crimes against the Palestinians' Great March of Return; stressing the need to enable the Commission to conduct a credible time-bound field investigation, and to ensure the enforcement of a clear mechanism to hold Israeli officials accountable for these crimes and to bring them to justice, and provide compensation for the unarmed civilian victims;
- 8- *Calls upon* the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to bear their responsibilities and to ensure respect for and enforcement of the Convention in the occupied territories of the State of Palestine since 1967 including East Jerusalem by ending Israeli violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law and enforcing the *jus cogens* of international law;
- 9- *Urges* the international community to take effective measures to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in order to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination and to establish their independent state on the occupied Palestinian territory since 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital, considering that the unresolved Palestinian Question fuels the conflict in the region and encourages Israel (the occupying Power) to continue its aggression against the Palestinian people;
- 10- *Supports* Palestinian endeavours to hold Israel (the occupying Power) accountable for crimes committed against the Palestinian people; emphasizing the need to provide the necessary technical and financial support to these endeavours; and to implement the creation of an advisory legal committee within the framework of the League of Arab States to provide advisory opinions on filing lawsuits before international courts concerning the Israeli violations of the Palestinian people's rights;
- 11- *Supports* the right of the Palestinian people to exercise all forms of anti-occupation struggle in accordance with the provisions of international law, including the people's peaceful resistance and

mobilization of the necessary supportive Arab endeavours; *emphasizes* that the boycott of the Israeli occupation and its colonial regime is one of the most viable and legitimate means of resistance to end the occupation and to enforce the two-State solution;

- 12- *Calls upon* all brotherly and friendly countries, including the African Union Member States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Non-Aligned Movement countries and South American countries to reject the biased and imbalanced draft resolution that the United States is seeking to submit at the UN General Assembly, in defense of Israel, the occupying Power, and against the rights of the Palestinian people in their legitimate struggle to end the occupation and their right to freedom and independence;
- 13- *Commends* the tangible and vigorous efforts exerted by the Arab Republic of Egypt to reach the ceasefire agreement and to ensure protection of the Palestinian people, as well as the Egyptian concrete efforts to achieve Palestinian national reconciliation.
- 14- *Calls on* the Arab Parliament, national Arab parliaments, media institutions and Arab civil society organizations to take effective measures to expose the crimes perpetrated by Israel (the occupying Power) against unarmed Palestinians and to secure international protection for them;
- 15- *Calls on* the two Arab Groups in the United Nations and the Human Rights Council, the Councils of Arab Ambassadors and the Missions of the League of Arab States to coordinate with the countries and regional groups in order to follow up on implementation of the present Statement.
- 16- *Requests* the Secretary-General to follow up on implementation of the present Statement and to submit a report thereof to the next session of the League's Council.

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