

## **Aboul Gheit's address on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People**

1 December 2024

Ladies and gentlemen,

This year's observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People arrives amid profound distress and historic challenges for the Palestinian cause. Today, with the masks removed and the Israeli agenda revealed in its stark reality, it has become unmistakably clear that the ambitions of the far-right coalition in Israel are aimed at the systematic eradication of Palestinian presence from their homeland. Their objectives are nothing less than the liquidation of the Palestinian state project, the realisation of forced displacement, and the imposition of unbearable conditions on Palestinian communities in Gaza and the West Bank to render life intolerable.

Witnessing this plan unfold openly before the global community, met with silence and inaction, is tantamount to complicity in this historic crime. It is a contribution—through inaction and apathy—to a disgraceful chapter that will stain the conscience of humanity.

We must acknowledge, however, the principled voices from all corners of the world—individuals and nations whose consciences have been stirred by what is rightly described as the crime of the century. These voices are a testament to the resilience of humanity's moral fabric, proving that there are still those who dare to name the horrors for what they are: ethnic cleansing and a war of extermination, intended solely to entrench the Israeli occupation and extend the abhorrent system of apartheid from the river to the sea.

We extend our profound respect to those nations and peoples who have raised their voices against tyranny and injustice. We especially commend those countries that have recognised the State of Palestine, understanding that peace and stability in the region cannot be achieved without the realisation of an independent Palestinian state based on the 4 June 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. This courageous recognition sends a beacon of hope to the Palestinian people in these dark times.

Additionally, we welcome the pivotal decisions by some nations to halt arms exports to Israel and impose sanctions on settlements and settlers. Such measures underscore the essential principle that accountability and justice are the only paths to dismantling the foundations of occupation and oppression.

In this regard, we salute the historic actions of the International Criminal Court (ICC), particularly the issuance of arrest warrants against Israeli leaders implicated in war crimes and crimes against humanity. This bold step represents significant progress towards the accountability and justice that are indispensable for achieving sustainable peace.

We welcome these measures, while acknowledging that they fall short of the necessary steps to halt the aggression and bring an end to the genocide.

We stand at a moment of truth, following over 400 days of relentless, indiscriminate killing. The advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), issued on 19 July 2024, unequivocally asserts that Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory since 1967 is illegal and must be brought to an end without delay. This position was further affirmed by a resolution of the General Assembly endorsing the ICJ's advisory opinion, thereby obliging all nations to actively work towards ending the occupation. The resolution demands that countries refrain from any form of cooperation that perpetuates this unlawful occupation, urging them to choose decisively whether they stand on the right or wrong side of history.

The time has come for the world to confront an undeniable truth: the continued Israeli occupation undermines global confidence in the international system as a whole. This occupation—with its inhumane practices, brazen violations of international law and humanitarian principles, and overt disregard for the United Nations and its representatives—represents a profound threat to the integrity of the international order itself.

The Arab-Islamic Summit held in November 2024 called for decisive action, including the mobilization of international support to suspend Israel's participation in the UN General Assembly. This call reflects a logical and principled response to the grave threat posed by the occupation to international peace and security, as well as to Israel's persistent failure, over 75 years, to fulfil the conditions for its UN membership. The recent legally invalid and morally reprehensible decisions by the Knesset, including the banning of UNRWA, further highlight this crisis. At a time when UNRWA's presence serves as a lifeline for millions of Palestinians, particularly as the Gaza Strip edges towards famine, such actions exacerbate the suffering and deepen the injustice inflicted on the Palestinian people.

In closing, I extend my deepest respect, pride, and admiration to the resilient Palestinian people for their enduring struggle against the machinery of oppression, injustice, and tyranny. I also express sincere gratitude to the nations and peoples who have taken a principled stand in supporting the just Palestinian cause. The global solidarity we have witnessed—from the Global South to the North—reflects a profound commitment to universal human values and the fundamental principles of international law, affirming the right of all peoples to freedom and independence.

This solidarity reinforces the hope of the Palestinian people and brings us closer to the ultimate goal of achieving a peace that is rooted in justice and rights—not in the imposition of force or tyranny.

Thank you. May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.