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Aboul Gheit's address at the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit in Riyadh

November 11-11- 2024



**Your Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud,
Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Prime Minister,**

Your Majesties, Excellencies, and Highnesses,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I extend my profound gratitude to Your Highness for your timely initiative in convening this joint summit. I would also like to convey, through you, our heartfelt appreciation to the people and government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the warm hospitality and generosity extended to us upon our arrival.

Words now fall short of conveying the profound tragedy endured by the Palestinian people.

The facts are evident to us all—plain and irrefutable to the world. They are painful, troubling, and, indeed, expose a stark reality.

The intentions behind the Israeli plan are no longer concealed. It aims at the dismantling of the Palestinian community in Gaza, through either forced or voluntary displacement. It seeks to erase an entire community along with its institutions and intricate social fabric, extinguishing any hope for its future restoration. The goal is to crush the Palestinian aspiration for an independent state. But let it be heard, by all who will listen, that these aspirations will never materialise, God willing.

What we are witnessing today from the Israeli government and its colonist supporters is the demolition of any future for coexistence in this region. It undermines the very foundation of peace—a peace we have long advocated for, a peace rooted in



justice. For it is justice that lays the groundwork for a lasting peace. Without justice, peace is but a hollow word; there can be no peace in the face of injustice, killing, and oppression.

Today's summit conveys an unequivocal message: the world can no longer afford to bear the consequences of turning a blind eye to this relentless massacre. The inertia and complacency of the international community have only emboldened the bloodthirsty occupying power, fuelling an expanding circle of violence—from Gaza to Lebanon—placing the stability of the entire region in profound jeopardy.

Israel may need a voice among its remaining allies to rescue it from the path of its own actions. The lack of accountability and the erosion of international law have regrettably emboldened its leadership to pursue policies that verge on the absurd and irrational.

The prime minister of its government now speaks of redrawing the map of the Middle East. But what kind of Middle East is this, where borders are etched with blood, bombs, assassinations, starvation, and the scorched remains of refugee camps and their inhabitants?

Today, 90% of Gaza's population is confined to a mere 10% of its territory—frightened, deprived of the most basic means of survival, and subjected to indiscriminate violence. The Middle East that we envision and will steadfastly pursue is one where an independent, sovereign Palestinian state exists at the heart, along the borders of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

In Lebanon, the deadly bombardment persists, claiming innocent lives and ravaging both private and public assets. Civilian casualties are mounting, and the plight of a million displaced people continues to worsen, imposing further strain



on a nation already beleaguered by years of compounded crises.

What is urgently needed is an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon.

What is imperative is a roadmap leading to the swift implementation of the two-state solution, under international auspices, with a sincere commitment to establishing the Palestinian state as a tangible reality.

Similarly, a ceasefire in Lebanon is essential, grounded in the full implementation of Resolution 1701, to ensure security on both sides of the border.

Delay will bring only more bloodshed, intensifying the risk of a full-scale conflagration across the region. Perhaps the newly elected American president, who has pledged to end this war, will honour that commitment at the earliest possible moment.

Today's summit signals that the threshold of danger has reached a critical and unsustainable level. I have full confidence in the wisdom with which this summit will confront this historic crisis.

Thank you, Mr. President.