

CENTURY OF OCCUPATION:
PALESTINE
IN THE SHADOW OF UNILATERAL PLANS



PRESIDENCY OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
**DIRECTORATE OF
COMMUNICATIONS**



PRESIDENCY OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
**DIRECTORATE OF
COMMUNICATIONS**

FOREWORD

FAHRETTIN ALTUN PHD

Communications Director, Turkish Presidency

One of the most important consequences of the First World War is the British occupation of Palestine, where people of different religions, sects and ethnic groups had lived in peace and prosperity under the rule of Ottoman Empire. Palestinian issue has become the most challenging and critical matter of global politics with the establishment of the State of Israel and gradual occupation of Palestinian territory in time. Unfortunately, negotiation tables set for tens of times, peace talks, friendly or malevolent attempts by the states in the region and around the globe have made the matter much more insoluble so far.

Having turned into an international matter of discussion first with the interventions of the states in the region and as a result of the wars with Israel, then with the involvement of global organizations such as the United Nations (UN), Palestinian-Israeli issue has gained a new dimension with the so-called peace plan announced by US President Donald Trump. This is because the plan proposed by Trump along with Israel is entirely in Israel's interests and seeks to destroy Palestine.

All aggressive actions by Israel aiming to occupy Palestine and the massacres it never hesitates have been condemned repeatedly by the UN General Assembly resolutions as well as the resolutions of the UN Security Council which has the power of sanction. However, these resolutions have remained merely on paper without much practical implementation. In this respect, Palestinian-Israeli issue causes international structures such as the UN to become dysfunctional and to lose their reputation. Similarly, hundreds of reports prepared by international human rights organizations on Israeli violations of human rights sit on the dusty bookshelves of libraries. Unfortunately, today there is no international agency or legal order recognized by Israel, which brings disturbance and instability to the region in which it is located as well as the Palestinian territories.

Not only the UN and the UN Security Council, but also the European Union have failed to obtain a result from their attempts on the Palestinian-Israeli issue and to play a historic role in this issue to date. In this context, it is time for Europe and the European Union to put forward their diplomacy-based agenda in a strong manner.

Islamic countries' approach to the issue constitutes another important dimension of the Palestinian issue. Palestine, which was once the most important agenda item of Islamic countries and the only matter on which the region acted in unity, is unfortunately alone today. Palestinians fail to receive support from the Islamic geography, except for a few countries such as Turkey. In particular, the existence of some Islamic countries, which support the recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel by the US and also the plan that is proposed and aimed at occupying and annexing Palestine, leads to a deep trauma on the peoples of the region.

The so-called peace plan, announced by the US President Trump on January 28, 2020, aims to deepen the Palestinian-Israeli issue rather than resolving it and also strip the Palestinian state and people of their lands. In this context, the mentioned plan means making Israel's occupation permanent and supporting its theopolitical maximalist theses and strategy.

Prepared unilaterally, partially and devoid of any reality, the so-called peace plan deals with the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, which has been ongoing since the UN Partition Plan of 1947, solely from Israel's perspective. The plan insists that the situation created by Israel through occupation must be accepted and that even the binding resolutions on the issue must be neglected. Regarding the Palestinians as the main barrier to peace, this plan ignores and legitimizes Israel's systematic occupation.

Despite the UN resolutions on Jerusalem and Oslo Accords, the so-called peace plan envisages the indivisibility of Jerusalem and puts the city under Israeli rule in one piece.

This booklet prepared by the Directorate of Communications addresses in detail Palestine's honourable struggle, Israeli occupation processes, violations of international law, Turkey's support for the Palestinian cause, and the occupation and annexation plan put forward by the U.S. President Trump. In addition to these topics, the booklet includes statements by international organizations and heads of state regarding the aforementioned plan and Turkey's approach to the issue.

Turkey's stance on the issue, which can be summarized with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's statement "The plan announced will not serve peace and settlement in the region. It is a plan aimed at ignoring the rights of the Palestinians and legitimizing Israel's occupation. Jerusalem is sacred to Muslims. The plan to give Jerusalem to Israel is absolutely unacceptable", is an historical objection and a warning. This plan which violates the international law, the UN and UN Security Council resolutions, is doomed to fail and cannot be implemented at all.

Occupation and genocide policies leading to sufferings, to which the Palestinian people have been exposed for decades, should not be allowed this time. A genuine peace plan can only be achieved in line with international legitimacy and in a framework paying regard to the rights of Palestine.



دعاه دخول المسجد
اللهم افتح لي أبواب رحمتك



1. THE HISTORY OF AN OCCUPATION: PALESTINE

The Palestinian issue represents the proud history of the struggle of a nation under occupation to determine its own fate, whose existence and fundamental rights are denied. Palestine is the name of a land, where the most painful incidents mankind could ever witness have occurred, such as occupation, colonialism, war, massacre and displacements.

The so-called peace plan that US President Donald Trump publicly announced is an acknowledgement of Israel's 'policy of occupation and ignorance'. It would be useful to take a closer look at Palestine's history of occupation in order to better understand this so-called peace plan that has attracted serious reactions and concerns from many states.

Balfour Declaration and the British Mandate

One of the major consequences of the First World War was the British occupation of Palestine and Jerusalem, where people of different religions, sects and ethnicities led a peaceful and prosperous life as brothers under the

rule of the Ottoman Empire for centuries. The letter that British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour sent to Lord Rotschild in which he wrote: "a Jewish state was to be created on Palestinian land" had a serious impact on the future of Palestine and the region. France, Italy and the US also supported the letter which went down in history as the 'Balfour Declaration'.

Jewish immigration into Palestine gained tremendous momentum after the British occupation of the region. This rapid wave of migration and the arbitrary practices of the British Mandate administration soon led to bloody conflicts between the Arabs and the Jews. The conflicts in Palestine could only be contained in 1938 by the reinforcements sent by the United Kingdom. The twenty-year-long British occupation of Palestine led to the migration of hundreds of thousands of Jews into the region, disregarding and neglecting the rights of the Palestinians and also led to the creation of a problem that would endure for at least another century.



United Nations (UN) Period in Palestine

In 1947, United Kingdom declared that it would withdraw from the area and turned over the Palestinian issue to the UN. After this declaration, the resolution 181 adopted by the UN General Assembly on November 29, 1947

recommended the creation of Arab and Jewish states in Palestine. This plan, however, was not implemented!. The plan in question was not accepted by the Arabs. Jews, however, presented the UN Resolution 181 as the basis and unilaterally declared the establishment of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948.



'Nakba' and 1948 Arab-Israeli War

After the declaration of the establishment of the State of Israel, Palestinians started observing May 15 as “Yawm an-Nakba” (Day of the Catastrophe). The process that began with “Nakba”, which is the symbol of forced migration, plundering and massacres for Palestinians, thousands of Palestinians were killed while 1 million people were forced to flee their homeland, 675 villages were destroyed and cities were Judaized. The declaration of the State of Israel also contributed to a dramatic increase in Jewish migration into the region. As a result of the conflicts that erupted between the regional Arab states and Israel and lasted until October 1949, Jordan took control of the West Bank and Egypt took control of the Gaza Strip. While the control of the west of Jerusalem was left to Israel, Jordan took East Jerusalem including the old city.

1967 “Six Day War”

1967 “Six Day War” is an important development in Palestine’s history of occupation. After Egypt blocked the Strait of Tiran connecting the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba, Israel attacked Egypt, Syria and Jordan on 5 June 1967. During the war that lasted only 6 days, Israeli troops advanced to Damascus, and consequently Israel seized the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, the Golan Heights from Syria and the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan, and occupied these territories. Following the Six Day War, UN Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 242. The resolution objected to the acquisition of territory by war and asked Israel to withdraw from territories it occupied. As a result of this war, which doubled the size of Israel-controlled territory, 500 thousand more Palestinians had to take refuge in neighbouring countries as refugees.

1973 Yom Kippur War

Egypt and Syria started an offensive in 1973 on Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), the holiest day for Jews, as Israel did not recognize the UN Security Council resolution and withdraw from the territory it occupied. At the outset, Israel had to withdraw from the Sinai Peninsula



and the Golan Heights. Then it received urgent ammunition support from the US and gained military advantage. At the end of 3 weeks, Israel managed to go to the west of Suez Canal, crossing the borders of 1967. A ceasefire could be only reached at the beginning of 1974 with the mediation of the US, Soviet Union and the UN.



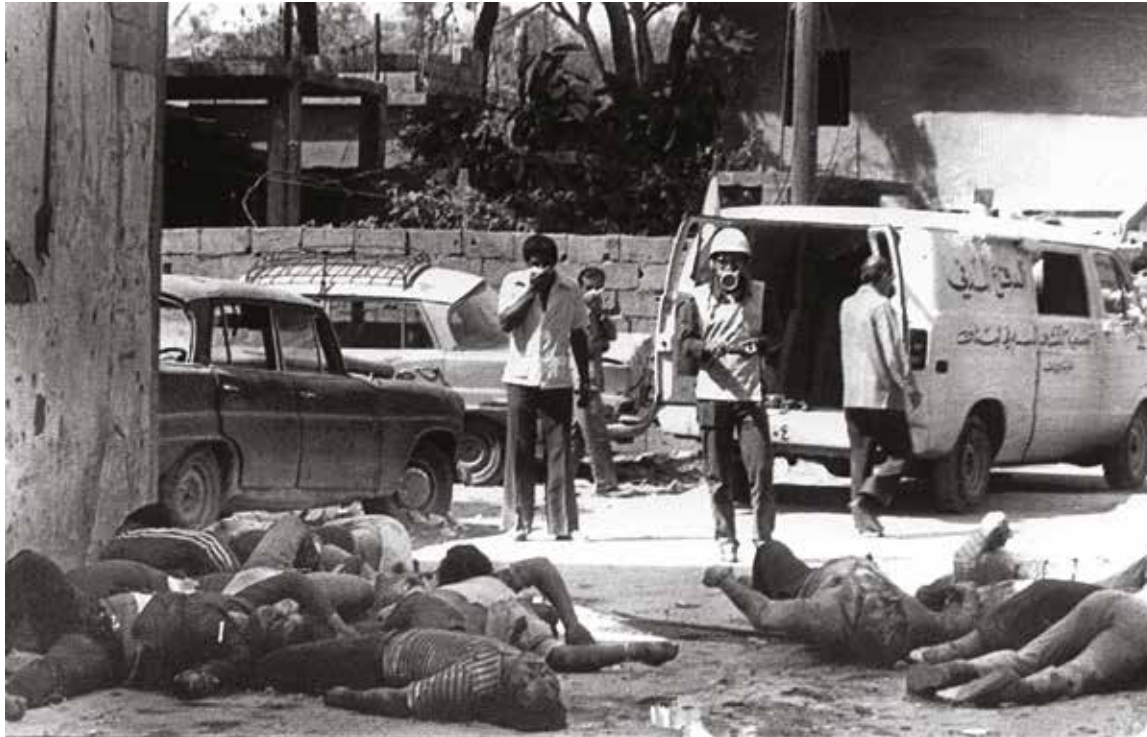
Negotiations and the Rise of Far Right in Israel

In 1974, Yasser Arafat's attendance to the UN General Assembly for the first time representing the Palestinian people and his address there had been a very important turning point. Arafat's address advocating a peaceful settlement had made a significant contribution to the international recognition of the Palestinian issue. Furthermore, in the second half of the 1970s, Israeli politics saw the rise of extreme rightist Herut, which would later be called Likud. After Menachem Begin had won the elections of 1977, Israel rapidly increased illegal Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. Israel intended to take root on these lands, from which it was supposed to withdraw as per the UN Security Council resolution. Minister of Agriculture Ariel Sharon, who would later be remembered with massacres in the upcoming years, took part at the beginning of this project.

1978 Camp David Accords and 1979 Egypt- Israel Peace Treaty

President of Egypt Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin signed the Camp David Accords on September 17, 1978 in the presence of the US President Jimmy Carter. In this context, it was proposed that the

meetings to be attended by Jordanian and Palestinian representatives should be held and Israel pledged to grant autonomy to the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza in a process extending over 5 years. With the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty signed one year later, Israel agreed to withdraw from the Sinai Peninsula entirely, and Egypt agreed to recognize Israel in return.



Israeli Occupation of Lebanon and Sabra-Shatila Massacre

In 1982, just 2 months after the last troops withdrew from the Sinai Peninsula, Israeli soldiers invaded the south of Lebanon. At that time, on the orders of Ariel Sharon, the Minister of Defense, the Israeli Army advanced to Beirut and forced the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to leave Lebanon. With the withdrawal of the PLO, Palestinian refugee camps remained vulnerable and became the target of Phalange militia which is Israel's ally. Following the Israeli occupation of western Beirut on September 15, hundreds of Palestinians were massacred by Phalangists in Sabra and Shatila Camps between September 16 and 18.

First Intifada and Declaration of State of Palestine

In 1987, 1st Intifada (uprising) started in the West Bank and Gaza Strip against the Israeli occupation. 20,000 people were wounded or died in the conflicts between the Palestinians and Israeli forces.



The international community recalls the Intifada that lasted until 1993 with the images of Palestinian civilians merely carrying “slingshots” and defending themselves against the Israeli Army, that is fully equipped with heavy weapons.

The second step of the process that started with Intifada was Jordan’s statement renouncing its sovereignty claims over the West Bank and East Jerusalem and respecting Palestinian people’s will to establish a separate

and independent state from Jordan. Thus, during its meeting in Algeria on November 15, 1988, the Palestinian National Council declared that an independent state of Palestine had been established. Turkey was one of the first countries to recognize this State. However, Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader at the time, announced on December 14, 1988 that he recognized the State of Israel as the declaration of the State of Palestine was not fully recognized in the international community.

1991 Madrid Peace Conference and Oslo Accords

The Madrid Peace Conference was another significant development in the historical process. The Madrid Peace Conference, held in the months after the end of the Gulf War, took its place in history for being the first conference where the delegations from Israel, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine gathered around the negotiating table. Following the Madrid Peace Conference, secret meetings took place between Israel and Palestine in Oslo in 1993, and two agreements between Israel and the PLO, known as the Oslo Accords, were signed in 1993 and 1995. In this context, the Palestinian National Authority was established in the West Bank and Gaza as a 5 years interim body, but progress was not made in the process.

II. Intifada and Arab Peace Initiative

The Palestinian people have entered the 21st Century with the tiredness and frustration of not having achieved any results from years of negotiation and agreement efforts and being exposed to systematic attacks by Israeli extremists. In 2000, after the visit of the Israeli opposition Likud Party leader Ariel Sharon to the Harem-i Sharif in a very provocative way, II. The resistance movement, called Intifada or Aksa Intifada, has started.

In March 2002, the Arab League Summit was held in Beirut. The initiative by Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, which proposed that all Arab States normalize relations with Israel on the condition that Israel withdraws to pre-1967 borders and a just solution is found on the issue of refugees based on UN General Assembly Resolution 194, was adopted under the name “Arab Peace Plan”. Under the plan, it was stipulated that Arab States would enter into a peace agreement and establish normal relations with Israel provided that Israel

affirmed full Israeli withdrawal from all the territories it occupied since 1967, including the Golan Heights and the south of Lebanon, returned to its borders of June 4, 1967 and accepted the establishment of a Sovereign Independent Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital on the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and Gaza strip occupied since June 4, 1967.



Israel occupied nearly the entire West Bank during the same period. 2002 was a year of raids and prolonged curfews for the Palestinians. Amnesty International stated that Israel committed war crimes in the Jenin and Nablus attacks in 2002.



Sharm El Sheik, 2005

Middle East Quartet, Sharm El Sheikh Summit and Annapolis Conference

As a result of the increasing tension and violence in the Middle East, the Middle East Quartet (the Quartet) was established in April 2002 with the initiative of Spain, where the United States, Russia, the EU and the UN gathered to assume a mediating position in the Middle East Peace Process. Although the Quartet introduced the Road Map in 2003, it was unable to achieve the expected role of advancing the peace process.

Furthermore, negotiations were held between Palestine and Israel in Sharm El Sheik in 2005, and in Annapolis, USA in 2007. Nevertheless, Israel's irreconcilable stance, pursued with the influence of far right radical elements both in the government and the public opinion, has hindered positive steps in the peace process.



2008-2009 Gaza Attack: Operation 'Cast Lead'

Although momentum was gained concerning all three dimensions of the Middle East Peace Process (Israel-Palestine, Israel-Syria, Israel-Lebanon) in 2008, the ongoing efforts were inconclusive due to Israel's military operation 'Cast Lead' against Gaza Strip in December 2008 -January 2009. The operation, which also included tanks crossing the Gaza border on January 3, ended on January 18. As a result of the 22 day occupation and bombardment, at least 1,500 people including 355 children lost their lives, 7,000 people were wounded and 4,000 households were destroyed in the Gaza Strip.



US President Obama, who took office in early 2009 after the Israeli-Palestinian talks, which included a total of six permanent status issues (Jerusalem, settlements, borders, refugees, security and water), were interrupted by the Gaza Crisis at the end of 2008, gave signals that he would pursue an active policy to advance the peace process. Nevertheless, the persistent attitude of the government, which was formed in 2009 under the leadership of Netanyahu, towards maintaining its settlement activities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem has been the main reason blocking progress in the Palestinian-Israeli dimension.





2014 Gaza Attack: Operation 'Protective Edge'

On July 8, 2014, Israel launched a new air, land and sea attack on Gaza in the Muslims' holy month of Ramadan. These attacks, criticized and requested an end for by many countries, claimed the lives of 1,898 people including 434 children, 246 women and 79 elderly people. 9,852 people including 2,877 children, 1,927 women, 374 elderly people were injured. Due to the attacks, Turkey declared national mourning for 3 days while Pakistan declared for 1 day.





US Decision to Move its Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem

US President Donald Trump announced on 6 December 2017 that he recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and that they would move the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.



عبد حمزہ
قاسم جواد

MILANO

SILVA

11. İSLAM ZİRVESİ KONFERANSI
OLAĞANÜSTÜ TOPLANTISI
"Wahid Action in Combating Terrorism"
İstanbul, 13 Aralık 2017

EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE
OIC ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE
"Unified Action in Combating Terrorism"
Istanbul, 13 December 2017



الاجتماع الاستثنائي لاجتماع القمة الإسلامية تحت مظلة التعاون الإسلامي
الذي تم عقده في 13 ديسمبر 2017
بإسطنبول

SESSION EXTRAORDINAIRE DE LA CONFERENCE
ISLAMIQUE AU SOMMET DE L'OIC
"Action Commune en Matière de Terrorisme"
Istanbul, 13 Décembre 2017



In response to this development, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) convened in Istanbul on December 13, 2017 for the Sixth Extraordinary Session on Jerusalem under the theme of ‘Unified Action for Solidarity with Jerusalem’ at the invitation of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. “Final Communique and Istanbul Declaration” were adopted at the end of the Extraordinary Session. The declaration rejected and condemned the unlawful statement of the US Administration regarding the status of Jerusalem.

In addition, Egypt, the representative of the Arab Group of the UN Security Council, submitted its draft resolution on Jerusalem to the UN Security Council on December 16. The draft, which was voted on December 18, received the support of 14 other members and was vetoed by the US.

The UN General Assembly’s 10th Emergency Special Session was convened on December 21, 2017 following a request from Turkey as the Chair of the Summit and Yemen on behalf of the Arab Group. The draft resolution titled ‘Status of Jerusalem’ presented by Turkey and Yemen was adopted at the session.

Nevertheless, the US Embassy was inaugurated on May 14, 2018. Guatemala followed the US and moved its Embassy to Jerusalem.

Israel’s stance towards Palestine and the region can be seen very clearly when almost a century-long historical process is considered as a whole. This stance has led to great sufferings such as the deaths of thousands of Palestinians and displacement of millions of people. This stance undermined the safety of the region and the Middle East. Israel has maintained its invading attitude even at the negotiating table with the parties in the historical process and continued its attacks against Palestine and the region



2. UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS AND THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE

The Palestinian issue is one of the main agenda items of various international organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The mentioned international organizations have hundreds of decisions regarding the Palestinian issue. Nevertheless, the UN is the main international organization that stands out with the resolutions it has adopted on the Palestinian issue.

There are many resolutions adopted merely by the UN on the Palestinian issue.

While the resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly are advisory, the resolutions adopted by the Security

Council are binding. However, it is seen that some of the draft resolutions brought before the Security Council have not been adopted as they were vetoed or that the implementation of some adopted resolutions has not been followed. As a result, it can be said that the resolutions of the UN General Assembly, in which there is no veto right and all member states can vote, also represent the international conscience regarding the Palestinian issue.

In general, the UN Security Council and UN General Assembly resolutions on the Palestinian issue tend to focus on three areas that constitute the basic parameters of the Palestinian issue: territories occupied by Israel, Palestinian refugees' right of return, and Jerusalem's status.



Very important resolutions on the Palestinian issue have been adopted within the UN framework. The first of such resolutions was the Resolution 181 of the UN General Assembly adopted on November 29, 1947. This resolution, also known as the “Partition Plan”, proposes the creation of an Arab and a Jewish State, where Jerusalem has a special status (Corpus Separatum).

Following this resolution, the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly have predominantly taken hundreds of decisions regarding the problems raised by

Israeli occupation of Palestine. It was seen that the permanent members of the UN Security Council (especially the USA) vetoed some resolutions regarding the Israeli occupation of Palestine and its repercussions.

In this regard, Resolution 242 of the UN Security Council adopted on November 22, 1967, in the wake of the 1967 war, when Israel occupied 80 per cent of Palestinian territory, is the fundamental reference in almost all peace initiatives on the Palestinian issue.



This resolution provides for the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories (West Bank, East Jerusalem, Gaza, Golan Heights and Sinai Peninsula), for the achievement of a just settlement of the refugee problem, and for every State in the area to live in peace within secure borders.

Following the 1973 Arab-Israeli War, UN Security Council Resolution 338 adopted on October 22, 1973 once again called for the implementation of Resolution 242.

Resolution 1397 of the UN Security Council, adopted on March 12, 2002, is significant in that it emphasizes the two-state solution on the Palestinian issue, while referring to Resolutions 242 and 338.

Although the UN Security Council and the General Assembly have adopted dozens of resolutions regarding the status of Jerusalem and the Israeli occupation of Jerusalem, the most prominent resolution is the UN Security Council Resolution 476 adopted on June 30, 1980, which states that the so-called “declaration of Jerusalem” as the capital and its annexation have no legal validity, emphasizing the status of Israel in Jerusalem as the occupying power.


3. TURKEY'S SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE

Turkey is the largest supporter of the just Palestinian cause and legal struggle. The most obvious evidence of such support is the stable attitude exhibited by Turkey at UN meetings in front of the entire world. Turkey has voted in favor of Palestine in all meetings since the 1960s.

In important stages of historical process of the Palestinian cause, Turkey has always stood by Palestine and taken political and diplomatic steps in a determined manner. Some of these steps are as follows:

- Turkey's dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) began at the Islamic Summit Conference in 1969 and increasingly continued. PLO leader Yasser Arafat was acknowledged in Ankara and a representative office of the PLO was opened in Turkey in 1979.



- 
- Turkey strongly opposed to Israel's occupation of East Jerusalem and its proclamation of the united Jerusalem as its capital in 1980, stressed that it would never accept this decision and announced that it has downgraded its diplomatic ties to the lowest level.
 - Turkey has stood by Palestinians in their movement of Intifada. While Oslo Negotiations and Oslo Accords were taking place, Turkey declared its support for the peace process and stated in all fields that a two-state solution protecting the legitimate interests of Palestinians was the sole remedy.
 - Turkey was the major country to have opposed to Israel's attack against Gaza that resulted in the death of over 1,000 Palestinians and more than 4,000 injuries in the region on December 27, 2008. It called on the world public to act against Israeli massacres.



WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM
COMMITTED TO IMPROVING THE STATE OF THE WORLD

IGNATIUS

ERDOGAN

PERES

BAN KI-MOON

NOUSSA

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

January 29, 2009 is an important date in terms of bringing the Palestinian issue to the world agenda again. Then-Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's "One Minute" outburst during the Davos Summit against the statement made by Israeli President Shimon Peres, which praised the occupation and which was filled with lies, has been one of the strongest symbols of Turkey's support for the Palestinian cause and struggle. Erdoğan announced Israel's non-humanitarian and non-conscientious stance to the entire world in the strongest voice:

"When it comes to killing, you know well how to kill. I know very well how you hit and killed children on the beaches."

Stating that Israel acted in violation of Jewishness along with quotations from the Torah, Erdoğan fiercely announced to the entire world that Turkey has fearlessly stood by the oppressed regarding the Palestinian issue, reacted to the double-standard at the panel and left the session. After this incident at the Davos Summit, the persecutions of Israel furthered remained on the international agenda.

Another important development about the Palestinian issue is the attack against the Gaza Freedom Flotilla.





The Gaza Freedom Squadron, consisting of Mavi Marmara, Sfendoni, Challenger I, Eleftheri Mesogios, Gazze 1 and Defne Y ships, which has set out against the humanitarian tragedy in Gaza, was attacked by Israel in international waters on May 31, 2010. During this attack, 10 Turkish citizens were martyred by Israeli soldiers aboard the Mavi Marmara. As a result, Turkey and three countries withdrew their ambassadors from Israel. Turkey downgraded its diplomatic ties with Israel to the level of second secretary. Turkey laid down three conditions for normalization with Israel due to these attacks, one of them was the lifting of the blockade on Gaza.



After US President Donald Trump announced on December 6, 2017 that the US recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and that it would move its embassy to Jerusalem, Turkey described this decision as the violation of international law and unacceptable. Turkey led the diplomatic efforts against this decision and firstly hosted the 6th Extraordinary Session of the Heads of State and Government of Member States of the OIC on Jerusalem, which was held with the theme “Unity and Solidarity with Jerusalem” in Istanbul on December 13, 2017. The Extraordinary Session was attended by 18 Presidents, 1 Vice-President, 3 Parliament Speakers, 5 Prime Ministers and 26 Foreign Ministers.



Furthermore, the draft resolution prepared on Jerusalem was vetoed by the US on December 18, 2017 at the UN Security Council, and thus the UN General Assembly's 10th Emergency Special Session was held on December 21, 2017 upon the request of Turkey and Yemen. The draft resolution titled the "Status of Jerusalem" was adopted by a vote of 128 in favor to 9 against with 35 abstentions at the session.

After the Israeli forces have harshly reacted to the protest demonstrations carried out following the official opening of the US Embassy, there were many losses of life throughout Palestine, and thus the Extraordinary OIC Summit was organized on May 18, 2018 and hosted by Turkey. The declaration adopted at the end of the Summit has once more rejected the illegal step taken by the US concerning the moving of its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, condemned Israel's aggression against the civilian people who use their legitimate and peaceful protest right and called on the UN and other international organizations to independently and transparently investigate the crimes committed by Israel.

Since the draft resolution submitted to the UN Security Council in order to protect the Palestinians in relation to the same incident was vetoed by the US, a similar draft resolution was put to vote at the Emergency Special Session of the UN General Assembly on June 13, 2018 upon the request of Turkey and Algeria. The draft resolution envisaged the provision of deterrence, including international protection, in order to ensure that those who have massacred the Palestinians holding peaceful protests since March 30, 2018 could be held accountable and the recurrence of such incidents could be prevented. The mentioned resolution was adopted at the Emergency Special Session of the UN General Assembly by a vote of 120 in favor to 8 against with 45 abstentions.

4. THE PURPOSE AND CONTENT OF THE SO-CALLED PEACE PLAN

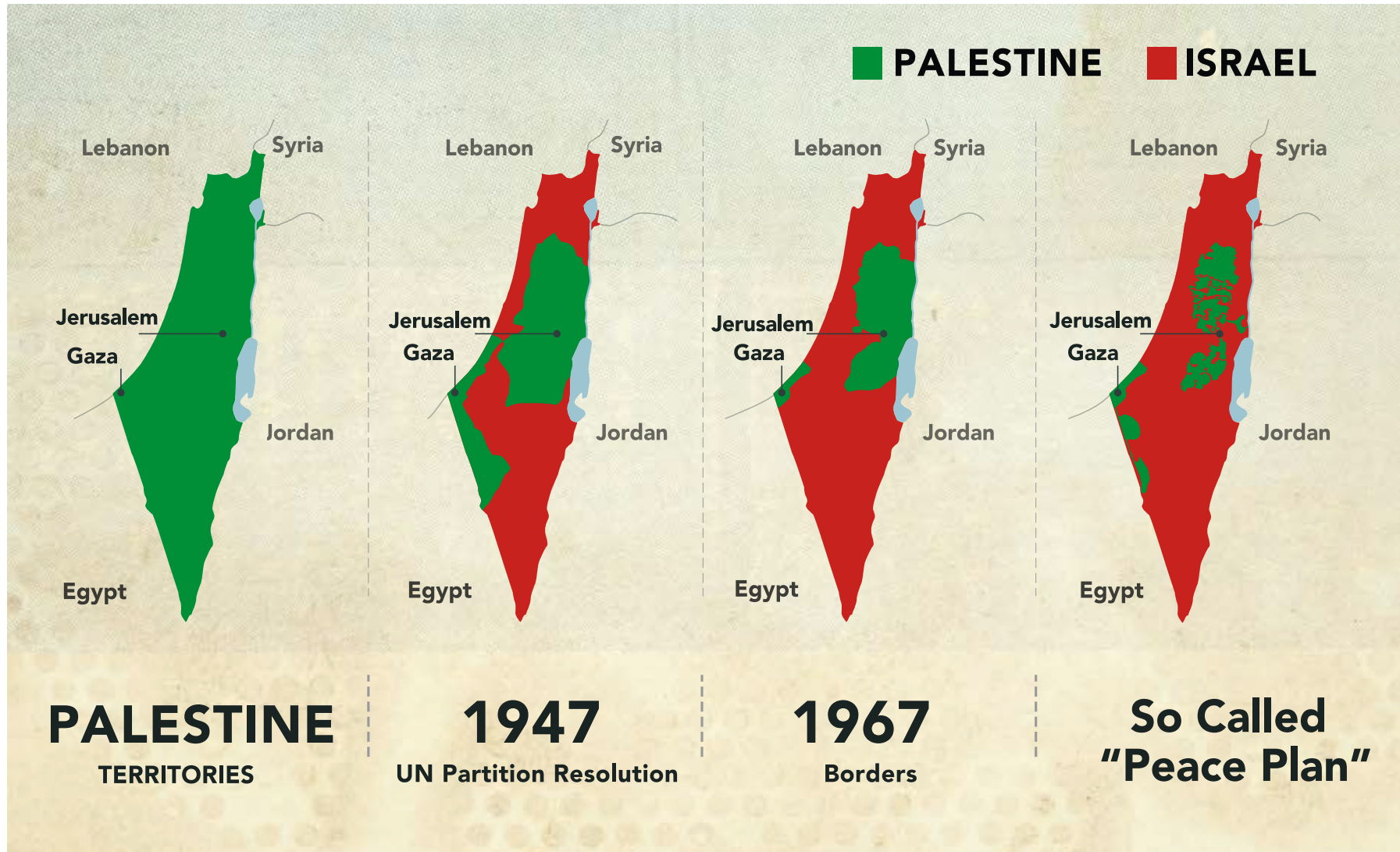
The so-called “peace plan” named “Peace to Prosperity: A Vision to Improve the Lives of the Palestinian and Israeli People” announced by the US President Donald Trump to the international public on January 28, 2020 is a step towards bringing Palestine-Israel issue to a new stage at regional and global scale. This plan aims to deprive the Palestinian state and its people of their lands, further deepening the Palestine-Israel issue rather than settling it. In this context, the mentioned plan means making Israel’s occupation permanent and supporting its theo-political maximalist theses and strategy.

Prepared unilaterally, partially and devoid of any reality, the so-called “peace plan” deals with Palestine-Israel conflict, which has been ongoing since the UN Partition Plan of 1947, solely from Israel’s perspective. The plan insists that the situation created by Israel through

occupation must be accepted and that even the binding resolutions on the issue must be neglected. Regarding Palestinians as the main barrier to peace, this plan ignores and legitimizes Israel’s systematic occupation.

This plan is based on Israel’s security in all matters without exception and fails to take into account its applicability. In this framework, the USA and Israel have excluded Palestine from the processes as well as thinking and deciding on its behalf.

The plan seems to have adopted the “Economic Peace” previously proposed by Netanyahu in various versions. It implies that the problems of Palestinians are mainly based on economy and that they can renounce a major part of their political demands in return for improving their economic situation.



The content of the so-called “peace plan” can be analyzed under several titles:

Land Arrangements

Land arrangements proposed by the plan are a projection of Israel’s maximalist policies. Although the so-called peace plan proposes the establishment of the state of Palestine, it aims to deprive Palestine of its lands in the long-term through expanding the territory of the state of Israel.

This plan makes the state of Palestine, which will be established in 4 years, and its borders unmanageable and fragmented. With this strategy, the lands given to Palestine are connected to each other through bridges and tunnels. The new state’s external “border” check and crossings between interconnections will be directly under the control of Israel.

Despite the UN resolutions on Jerusalem and Oslo Accords, the so-called peace plan envisages the indivisibility of Jerusalem and puts the city under Israeli rule in one piece. The US justifies this with the Jerusalem Embassy



Act of 1995, in other words, it proposes its own acts as the basis for Israeli rule over Jerusalem.

The plan proposes a Palestinian capital anywhere to the east of the arc of Kafr Aqab, East Shuafat and Abu Dis (the most probable location). Currently, this area is divided from the center of Jerusalem (Old City-Inside the walls) by means of security barriers and check points.

The said area is historically located in the remote suburbs of Jerusalem.

The so-called peace plan disconnects the patches of land allocated to Palestine from both Jordan and the Mediterranean. Israel annexes the Jordan Valley extending between the West Bank and Jordan, and the territorial waters in the Mediterranean fall completely under Israeli control. In other words, the scope of the blockade imposed for years on Gaza is extended to include the whole territory inhabited by Palestinians by different methods.

Security Arrangements

The security arrangements supporting the land arrangements of the plan are aimed at creating a security architecture that prioritizes the absolute safety of the Israeli state. The safety of the state and people of Palestine are left entirely to the initiative and mercy of Israel.

The plan foresees a security agreement between the Israeli state and the Palestinian

Authority Security Forces (the “PASF”). The security agreement is based on the assumption that Israel will never be safe in the presence of Palestinian actors, and gives Israel the liberty to take initiative. Israel thus earns the right to intervene at the military, law enforcement and intelligence level at its own will and with its own excuse.





According to the plan, when it comes to Israel's security, the U.S. will fulfill all the requirements to ensure Israel's security without resorting to any other state or international organization. The U.S. will thus be able to intervene anytime in favor of Israel and by suspending international law.

The plan does not make any reference to Palestine's security concerns. There is no expression about how and by whom the disarmed Palestine left to Israel's initiative even in terms of state formation, will be protected from Israel. In the process of state-formation, as the new Palestinian state focuses on domestic law enforcement, Israel emerges as the absolute sovereign actor in security.

The plan lays down conditions that leave the security arrangements for the establishment of a Palestinian state entirely to the initiative of the Israeli state. These conditions include full approval of Israel's new borders by the Palestinian leadership, complete disarmament of Palestine, withdrawal of Hamas from Gaza and acceptance of all security audits of Israel.



Issue of Palestinian Refugees

Year 1967 is not the beginning of history for Palestine. From the British Mandate to the UN Partition Plan, from the 48 war to 67, the rights of Palestinians have been usurped consistently and systematically. The right to return of Palestinians, who have been forced out of their houses during the foundation of Israel and the subsequent occupations, is a right that the Palestinians have upheld for a long time as a prerequisite for peace negotiations.

Nevertheless, the Plan makes no reference whatsoever to the rights of millions of Palestinians displaced by Israel, and on the contrary states that the adoption of the agreement means they must relinquish their rights, and that none of the refugees would be allowed to return to their homes under Israeli occupation and even those who wish to return to Palestine would have to seek Israel's



approval. This is a violation of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 194 adopted on December 11, 1948.

Palestinian State

The plan did not create a roadmap based on objective criteria for the Palestinian State, but gave Palestinians some homework and responsibilities, most of which are impossible to be fulfilled. Israel has been designated to determine how successful Palestinians were.

Even if the plan touches on an independent Palestinian state, it is understood that this is a so-called independence on paper. As a matter of fact, some conditions are stipulated on the establishment of the Palestinian state. These conditions basically consist of recognizing Israel as a Jewish state, rejecting terrorism in all its forms and allowing Israel to make special security arrangements that address Israel's security. It requires Palestine to build effective institutions under its control. Only when these conditions are met, the US will be able to support the establishment of a Palestinian state. As a result, it is not possible to talk about independence. As a matter of fact, according to the Plan, Israel's approval is required even for the Palestinian state to become a member of international organizations.





Religious Arrangements

Completely changing of the status of East Jerusalem and leaving the control of the old city absolutely to Israel has been one of the biggest achievements of the plan



for Israel. In addition, the holy places, including the large parts of the city inhabited by more than 300,000 Palestinians, the Old City and the Masjid al-Aqsa compound, are transferred to the absolute sovereignty of Israel. While the plan demands the maintenance of the religious status

quo, it states that only worshipers “coming peacefully” will be welcome with regard to Muslims who want to visit Masjid al-Aqsa and pray. This largely restricts the region to worship in a way that it will be subject to the absolute permission of Israel for Muslims.

Considering the plan as a whole, it is understood that the plan is based on economic reductionism, as it assumes that Palestinians will give up their claims with a conditional aid of \$28 billion. It especially ignores the resolutions and solution proposals of the UN, UNSC and other international organizations. This unilateral occupation plan is doomed to failure and the plan has no applicability.

5. INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS TO SO-CALLED PEACE PLAN

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION/ COUNTRIES	STATEMENTS
UN	<p>"The United Nations remains committed to supporting Palestinians and Israelis to resolve the conflict on the basis of United Nations resolutions, international law and bilateral agreements and realizing the vision of two States - Israel and Palestine - living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, on the basis of the pre-1967 lines."</p>
IIT	<p>"We completely reject Trump's so-called peace plan. The plan justifies Israel's annexation of much of Palestinian territory by violating international legal principles, the United Nations (UN) Convention and related international resolutions, under the pretext of security. Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Palestine. We call on the US administration to comply with the principles of international law for a fair, lasting and comprehensive peace. "</p>
ARAB LEAGUE	<p>Arab League "Rejects the US-Israeli 'deal of the century' considering that it does not meet the minimum rights and aspirations of Palestinian people." Arab states also agreed "not to cooperate with the US administration to implement this plan," adding that Israel should not implement the initiative by force. They insisted on a two-state solution that includes a Palestinian state based on borders before the 1967 war, when Israel occupied the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem. They also called for East Jerusalem to be the capital of the future Palestinian state.</p>
EU	<p>Josep Borrell, High Representative for EU External Relations and Security Policies: "The EU continues to support a two-state solution within the borders of 1967. The initiative offered by the USA on January 28 does not comply with internationally agreed criteria. We are particularly concerned about the explanations for the annexation of parts of the Jordan Valley and the West Bank. "</p>

INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION/
COUNTRIES

STATEMENTS

TURKEY

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan: "The proposal will not serve peace and resolution in the region. It is a plan to ignore the rights of the Palestinians and legitimize Israel's occupation."

"Jerusalem is sacred to Muslims. The plan to give Jerusalem to Israel can never be accepted."

"Turkey will never recognize or accept the US "peace plan for the Middle East. This plan aims to annex the occupied Palestine territories. Jerusalem is a "red line" for Turkey which has been the holy city is the key to world peace as it has been for thousands of years. A rogue state such as Israel, which executes innocents on the streets, is completely unacceptable for Turkey. Leaving Jerusalem entirely in Israel's bloody claws will be the greatest evil for all humanity."

MOFA: "This is an annexation plan aiming to destroy the two-state solution and seize the Palestinian territories. The people and the land of Palestine cannot be bought off. Jerusalem is our red line. We will not allow any step seeking to legitimize Israel's occupation and atrocities. We will always stand by the brotherly Palestinian people and will continue to work for an independent Palestine on Palestinian land. We will not support any plan that does not have the support of Palestine. There will not be any peace in the Middle East without ending Israel's occupation policies."

Director of Communications Fahrettin Altun: I think the terms 'Middle East Peace Plan' or 'Deal of the Century' are quite wrong. As you read the content of the plan, you see this very clearly. In our opinion, this one mainly deserves to be called the 'Occupation and Destruction Plan' or 'Betrayal of the Century'."

"Rather than a bilateral negotiation, this plan represents a unilateral imposition. It turns out that the plan only aims to remove Netanyahu's leadership crisis. Those who prepared the plan know very well that it cannot be implemented. Their entire purpose is to earn time and expand the area under their occupation in the meantime. This is not a Peace Plan, but a Declaration of War."

**INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION/
COUNTRIES**
STATEMENTS
GERMANY

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas stated that US President Donald Trump's proposal for the so-called "Middle East Peace Plan" raises questions. Maas stated that they will scrutinize this proposal of the USA and all partners assume that they will do so.

FRANCE

France Foreign Ministry Statement: "France welcomes President Trump's efforts and will carefully study the peace plan he presented."

"A two-state solution, in conformity with international law and internationally-agreed parameters is necessary for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East."

UK

MOFA Spokesperson Raab: "This is clearly a serious proposal, reflecting extensive time and effort. We encourage them (leaders) to give these plans genuine and fair consideration, and explore whether they might prove a first step on the road back to negotiations".

RUSSIA

Kremlin Spokesperson Dmitriy Peskov: Some items of the US's so-called "Middle East Peace Plan" are not compatible with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions.

CANADA

Canadian Foreign Minister François-Philippe Champagne: "Canada remains committed to the goal of achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East. This includes the creation of a Palestinian state living side by side in peace and security with Israel and ensuring Israel's security within its own borders."

"Canada recognizes the urgent need to renew efforts toward a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and will carefully examine the details of the US initiative for the Middle East Peace Process."

INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION/
COUNTRIES

STATEMENTS

PALESTINE

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas: "A thousand no's to the plan." "After the nonsense that we heard today, we say a thousand no's to the deal of the century. The Palestinians remain committed to ending the Israeli occupation and establishing a state with its capital in east Jerusalem. "We will not kneel and we will not surrender the Palestinians would resist the plan through "peaceful, popular means."

Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh: "The deal was "nothing but a plan to finish off the Palestinian cause."

PAKISTAN

Pakistan Foreign Ministry Statement: "Pakistan continues to support a just and lasting solution of the Palestinian issue, through dialogue and negotiations, that leads to the realization of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, including the right of self-determination."

"We renew our call for the establishment of a viable, independent and contiguous State of Palestine, on the basis of internationally-agreed parameters, the pre-1967 borders, and with Al-Quds Al-Sharif [Jerusalem] as its capital."

QATAR

Qatar Emir Sheikh Temim bin Hamed Al Sani: "Qatar is ready to strive for a fair and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem in line with the Arab Peace Initiative and international decisions. We support the struggle of the Palestinian people."

JORDAN

Jordan's Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi: "We believe that the only way to establish an independent Palestinian state in the capital of the East is to seek genuine and just peace based on international resolutions that include ending the occupation, protecting the rights of the Palestinian people and Jordanian interests."

**INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION/
COUNTRIES**
STATEMENTS
UAE

Yousef al-Otaiba, the United Arab Emirates' ambassador to Washington: "The plan offers an important starting point for a return to negotiations within an US-led international framework."

"The only way to guarantee a lasting solution is to reach an agreement between all concerned parties."

"The UAE believes that Palestinians and Israelis can achieve lasting peace and genuine coexistence with the support of the international community."

IRAN

MFA Zarif: "The so-called "Vision for Peace" is simply the dream project of a bankruptcy-ridden real estate developer. But it is a nightmare for the region and the World. And, hopefully, a wake-up call for all the Muslims who have been barking up the wrong tree."

EGYPT

Egypt urged Israelis and Palestinians to "carefully study" the proposal. The foreign ministry said in a statement that the plan favors a solution that restores all the "legitimate rights" of the Palestinian people through establishing an "independent and sovereign state on the occupied Palestinian territories."

YEMEN

Foreign Minister Mohammed Al-Hadhrami: "Yemen's position is consistent, firm and supportive and will not change regarding the Palestinian issue and the inalienable rights of the brotherly Palestinian people, foremost of which is the establishment of its independent state and its capital, Al-Quds Al-Sharif."

**INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION/
COUNTRIES**
STATEMENTS
SAUDI ARABIA

MOFA: "Appreciates the efforts of President Trump's administration to develop a comprehensive peace plan and also called for the start of direct peace negotiation between the Palestinian and Israeli sides."

TUNISIA

President Kays Saied: "It is the injustice of the century... Palestine is not an orchard to be a subject of a deal."

KUWAIT

MOFA Statement: "A just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue can be reached only through compliance with relevant international legitimacy resolutions and terms of reference laid down by the international community, chiefly an independent and sovereign state on the June 4, 1967 border with its capital in East Jerusalem."

BAHRAIN

In a statement made by the Bahraini Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the effort made by the USA for the peace process in the region was praised, and it was stated that the plan announced by Trump would accelerate this process. In the statement, it was declared that Bahrain is eagerly waiting for the parties to review the plan and start direct talks between Palestine and Israel under the auspices of the United States, so that they can reach an agreement that will later meet the demands of Israel and the Palestinian people.



EPILOG: TURKEY'S CALL

The so-called “peace plan” unilaterally drafted by the Trump administration by ignoring Israel’s systematic occupation in Palestine seeks to strip Palestine of its territory. The plan, which runs counter to international law, UN and UN Security Council resolutions, is doomed to fail because it cannot be implemented at all.

The plan based on a fait-accompli approach violates the sovereignty rights of Palestinians. Therefore, it is not a peace plan, but an occupation plan. The so-called “peace plan” aiming to legitimize the occupation policies of Israel undermines Jerusalem’s multi-religious character and paves the way for cultural genocide.



It rules out the two-state solution approved by the UN and UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. In this sense, it disables and nullifies international law and agreements as well as global organizations like the UN.

This occupation plan can in no way bring peace and prosperity to Palestine and the Middle East. Attempting to enforce such a plan despite the objections of Palestinians will deepen the crises and conflicts in the Middle East. The increasing stability in the region will promote the threat of terrorism and irregular migration. Inevitably, this will lead to a greater influx of refugees into Europe and a less secure environment.

Turkey approaches Palestinian issue within the framework of justice and law, believing that a lasting and comprehensive peace in Palestine and the Middle East could only be achieved with a fair plan that stops ignoring Palestine and respects UN resolutions. Supporting the two-state solution, Turkey thinks that peace can be achieved based on the four fundamental principles below:

- Returning to the borders of 1967,
- Enabling the return of Palestinian refugees,
- Making Jerusalem the capital of Palestine,
- Withdrawal of Jewish settlers from Palestinian territory.

In this context;

Occupation and genocide policies leading to sufferings, to which the Palestinian people have been exposed for decades, should not be allowed this time. A genuine peace plan can only be achieved in line with international legitimacy and in a framework paying regard to the rights of Palestine.

Today, it is time for Europe and the European Union to address its diplomacy-oriented agenda on the table in a strong manner. Europe should now develop a more robust policy on the Middle East and address Palestine-Israel issue in line with this policy.

Today, the entire world should advocate international law and stand by the Palestinians against occupation and unlawfulness. Global conscience should take action for the future of humanity and diplomacy.

And today, all the states should adopt a resolute position against the Middle East occupation plan.



PRESIDENCY OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

**DIRECTORATE OF
COMMUNICATIONS**