



**Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
to the United Nations**

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Statement

by

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Permanent Representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines
to the United Nations

At the

**VTC Consultations on the situation in the Middle East, including the
Palestinian question**

United Nations Security Council

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New York

Thank you, Mr. President,

I also wish to thank Special Coordinator Tor Wennesland for his comprehensive his briefing.

Colleagues, this is the second time in just over 48 hours that we are convening on this worsening crisis and SVG has, once again, joined in the call to convene this meeting.

The military campaign against Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory must stop. We also stand steadfastly against any attempts to alter the character of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, by force.

The Security Council cannot look away in the face of total disregard for the United Nations Charter as well as Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. Since we met day before yesterday, more blood has been shed.

If we continue to stay silent as a Council, rather than sending a message of disapproval for these unlawful acts, we would in fact be sending a message that some member states, in some scenarios, are above the law – above international law and above the edicts set down by this very Council.

A selective approach to acts of aggression, blatant disregard for Security Council resolutions, the Fourth Geneva Convention, and our Charter, does not bode well for a two-state solution. We can no longer look away when, as a result of these breaches, generations of Palestinians including children are being killed by the Occupying Power. Moreover, the right to self-defense cannot cloak the wrongs of a party who fired the first shot and is using military capabilities far beyond that of the weaker party.

To be sure, we also sympathize with the families of those who died in Israel. Colleagues, we want peace to reign in Palestine and Israel.

Let us remember, the Palestinians do not have shelters or protection to wait out the hail of air strikes. We are their only protection. International law is their only protection, and we are failing them.

We have a duty to use the tools at our disposal to correct these atrocious wrongs we have been witnessing from afar over the course of many days. The Council needs to pronounce itself on this. Our credibility as a Council and the lives of countless Palestinians hang in the balance.

Thank you.