



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

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**Statement**

by

**H.E. Inga Rhonda King**

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

At the

**Briefing 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, and I also thank Special Coordinator Wennesland for his briefing.

Today, we are called to reflect together on the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. For more than 54 years, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has afflicted the Middle East landscape. For the situation to be mutually acceptable and conducive to a desirable future for Palestinians and Israelis alike, the **violence must end, and a negotiated political agreement must conform to a two-state solution**, putting an end to Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory. *Special Envoy Wennesland just re-emphasised the critical importance of the latter.* This, in our view, is the only way towards lasting peace in the Middle East.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is deeply troubled by the progressively worsening situation on the ground, which is moving us further and further away from the two-State solution. We strongly condemn the Israeli airstrikes in Gaza on June 15<sup>th</sup> in violation of the announced ceasefire of May 21st. We **call on all parties to refrain from violence and any acts that would impede the resumption of constructive dialogue between them.**

My delegation rejects the status quo of the continuous Israeli occupation and displacement of Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, as well as the blockade of Gaza, that led to the recent hostilities. We continue to be concerned about the possible eviction of several Palestinian families from their homes in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of occupied East Jerusalem. **We reiterate our call to Israel to adhere to international law and comply with the relevant Security Council resolutions**, in particular resolution 2334 (2016), to end the ever-

increasing settlement activities, property demolitions and evictions in the Palestinian territory.

**The Security Council must assume its obligations and responsibilities in maintaining peace and security.** We must send the strong, clear and unequivocal message to the Israeli Government that policies of violence against civilians, of provoking religious sentiment, and of political prevarication will not lead to a positive outcome.

In Gaza, reconstruction demands several urgent steps, including a unified Palestinian government and the lifting of the 15-year-old Israeli blockade. We commend the role of the United Nations and its partners in implementing the critical economic and humanitarian interventions. However, more needs to be done to build back better, improve resilience and successfully recover Palestinians' livelihoods. At this critical juncture for Palestinians in Gaza, it is imperative that the international community increase funding to UNRWA and support the Flash Appeal requesting \$95 million to address the needs of 1.1 million Palestinians, in the areas of protection, health, water and sanitation, education and food security.

In closing, Mr President, we remain committed to working with the parties and members of the Security Council for an end to the occupation, the creation of a thriving Palestinian State living side by side in peace with Israel, within secure and recognized borders, and a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, in accordance with relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, the Road Map and the Arab Peace Initiative.

I thank you.