



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

685 3rd Ave., Suite 1108, New York, NY 10017 • Tel: (212) 599-0950 • Fax: (212) 599-1020 •

svgmission@gmail.com | <http://svg-un.org>

Statement

by

H.E. Nedra Miguel

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

“The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question”

Security Council

30 August 2021

New York



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

685 3rd Ave., Suite 1108, New York, NY 10017 • Tel: (212) 599-0950 • Fax: (212) 599-1020 •

svgmission@gmail.com | <http://svg-un.org>

Statement

by

H.E. Nedra Miguel

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

“The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question”

Security Council

30 August 2021

New York

Check against delivery

Thank you, Mr. President,

Let me start by thanking the Special Coordinator, Mr. Wennesland, for his briefing and endeavours in the pursuit of a solution to ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Hitherto, the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question remains one of the most important unresolved issues of peace and security in the world today. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines holds the firm view that multilateral efforts, including the Security Council and those of the Quartet, could contribute to the achievement of a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East, in accordance with international law, and the United Nations resolutions.

During August, Israel, the occupying Power, continued its illegal and inhuman practice throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, injuring and killing Palestinian civilians, including children, in violation of the international law. We reiterate our call for immediate international protection for the Palestinian people, in accordance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Convention. It is also imperative that the relevant parties respect the terms of the 21 May ceasefire agreement, in order to prevent further escalation of violence on the ground.

Mr. President,

We remain profoundly concerned about the continuing Israeli demolitions, and seizures of Palestinian structures in East Jerusalem and Area C of the occupied West Bank, displacing Palestinian families. In line with our long-standing position on this issue, we call upon the Israeli authorities to halt demolition and seizure of Palestinian houses and property, in accordance with its obligations as an occupying power under international humanitarian law, and to cease the policy of settlement construction and expansion.

The dire humanitarian situation in Gaza remains a source of serious concern. Humanitarian operations continue to be seriously affected by the Israeli 14-year blockade of Gaza, restricting access to humanitarian needs, relief, and reconstruction to meet the needs of the population in Gaza. We reiterate our call on Israel to lift the blockade that continues to critically affect all aspects of life in Gaza. Moreover, we call on this Council to demand that humanitarian aid be allowed to enter Gaza without restrictions. On the more positive side, we welcome the recent agreement between the United Nations and Qatar to return some Qatari subsidies to Gaza and encourage the international community to help alleviate the imminent humanitarian crisis. Furthermore, we reiterate our ongoing urgent call for the international community to continue support to UNRWA, in order to fulfil its mandate of providing services to Palestine refugees.

In conclusion, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remains committed to the creation of an independent and viable Palestinian State living side by side in peace with Israel, and a comprehensive peace in the region, in accordance with the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions and internationally agreed parameters. The Council, with its Charter-mandated responsibility for international peace and security, cannot afford to ignore the suffering of the Palestinian people anymore. We need to urgently find a peaceful, just, lasting, and comprehensive settlement to the dire conflict.

I thank you.