



**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

**Quarterly Briefing on:**

**“The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question”**

Security Council  
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New York

Thank you, Madam President, I also thank the briefers for their powerful and enlightening presentations.

The grave security situation that continues in the State of Palestine is of particular concern to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Palestinian people and the territory of the State of Palestine are in more urgent need of international protection, as Israel continues its ongoing settlement activities and the demolition of Palestinian structures in the occupied territory. So, we reiterate here again today, the ongoing occupation of Palestinian territories constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and remains a significant threat to lasting and comprehensive peace. We call on Israel, the occupying power to cease all settlement activities, and to abide by its legal obligations and responsibilities under the Fourth Geneva Convention. Further, as reinforced by resolution 2334 (2016), we condemn all measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967.

As we have said many times, freedom and justice for the Palestinian people can only be achieved through a lasting two-state solution that allows for the peaceful existence of the State of Palestine based on pre-1967 borders, and the full recognition of their sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence. Moreover, the continued oppression of the Palestinian people undermines their legitimate claims to dignity, equality, and human rights.

On a positive note, we welcome plans for the reconstruction of Gaza, which will start in October. Notwithstanding, the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza continues to be exacerbated by the 14-year Israeli blockade. Yet again, we call on Israel to lift the blockade to allow humanitarian access, building materials and construction equipment for the reconstruction of Gaza. Further, we condemn all punitive measures against the Palestinian people that exacerbate the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Despite the many challenges, we commend the ongoing efforts of UNRWA in providing humanitarian assistance to ease the plight of the Palestinians refugees. The certainty of support to UNRWA from the international community is critical to the Agency's ability to promote human development and meet the most urgent humanitarian needs of the Palestinian refugees.

In conclusion, we echo the warning of President Abbas that undermining the two-State solution based on international law and UN resolutions will open the way for other alternatives imposed on Palestinians by the situation on the ground as a result of the continued Israeli occupation of the State of Palestine.

Thank you!