



**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. Inga Rhonda King**

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

At the

**Open Debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian  
question**

Security Council  
19 October 2021  
New York

Thank you, Mr. President,

Let me begin by also thanking Special Coordinator Tor Wennesland, Mr Daniel Levy, President of the US/Middle East Project and Ms Hanna Ashrawi, political and civil society leader for their briefings. And I thank our colleague representatives of the State of Palestine and Israel for their statements.

For decades, the international community has been witness to the Israeli occupation of Palestine. Every month, we come to the Council and state our positions in line with international law and UN resolutions but this does not seem to move the needle. Our words do not stop the erosion of Palestinian statehood, the killing of Palestinian children, nor the attempted erasure of a people and their homes. Cynically and paradoxically, such observations have, in the not-too-distant past, spawned arguments that we must do away with international law and the two-state solution. Such an approach rocks the foundation of our rules-based international order. The refusal of Israel to come to terms with the requisite of an independent Palestine, and a secure Israel, remains our biggest hurdle. In these new, perilous times, which humanity faces, we must do better. We must, as Mr Levy suggests, disengage from autopilot, and implement Res. 2334, in the interest of a political solution and political justice.

Mr President,

Recent developments with respect to Israeli settlements are of particular concern. The recent announcement of approvals for advancing the construction of thousands of homes in E1, is a flagrant violation of international law and further undermines the peace process and two—state solution. We renew our call on the Israeli Authorities to urgently reverse these latest decisions as a matter of urgency. Yet again, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines denounces the continuing and increasing demolition and confiscation of Palestinian houses and structures, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

The situation in Sheikh Jarrah, East Jerusalem, which remains under threat of forced eviction of Palestinian families from their homes, is also troubling. We call on Israel to immediately halt all forced evictions and to cease its systematic policy of settlement expansion, demolition of Palestinian structures and obstructing Palestinian development.

We are also deeply concerned about allegations of the use of excessive force by Israeli security forces against Palestinian civilians. This includes the killing and wounding of Palestinian civilians, including children. Therefore, we reiterate our call on Israel to observe international humanitarian law, as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 1949. Turning to the recent developments surrounding the Al-Aq-sa

Mosque/AlHaram AlSharif, we call on all to respect the historic and legal status quo at this holy site, in the interest of peace and stability.

While noting that the Israeli authorities have eased some of the restrictions in Gaza, much more needs to be done to prevent an even more grim future for Palestinians. Continued humanitarian access and funding services to the Palestinian population in Gaza remain critical. We call attention once more to the Israel illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip. The blockade must end to facilitate rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief for Palestinians in need, and reconstruction of Gaza. Moreover, we call on the international community to make tangible investment to resolve the critical funding shortfalls for the reconstruction efforts in Gaza and programmes run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

Before closing, my delegation welcomes the United States plans for the re-establishment of a U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reminds once again that there is no substitute for a two-state solution between Israelis and Palestinians. Time is running out on us; we need to work collectively to promote genuine dialogue between the parties. Only through dialogue and negotiations can there be lasting peace in Israel and Palestine, and the wider Middle East. Thank you.