



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

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**Statement**

by

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**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 thank you, Special Coordinator Tor Wennesland, for your briefing.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines joined the international community yesterday (29 November), to observe the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people and focused attention on the fact that the prospect of the State of Palestine, living in peace with its neighbour, Israel, is increasingly elusive. This is not for want of clear, unambiguous resolutions and international law in favour of the two-state solution, but rather the failure to ensure implementation of these edicts. For too long, the Palestinian people have been denied the right to self-determination without external interference, the right to national independence and sovereignty, and the right to return to their homes and property, from which they have been displaced. Illegal occupiers have continued to thwart the will of the international community.

It is critical that the regional countries, the United Nations, the Middle East Quartet, and other international parties redouble efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement and stand in solidarity with and uphold the rights of the Palestinian people. Yet again, we reiterate President Abbas' call for an international peace conference, with the participation of all stakeholders in the Middle East peace process.

We remain deeply concerned about the Israeli authorities' aggression against the Palestinian people, especially as it continues to demolish buildings, plan to build more settlements in the West Bank and aggressively distributes house demolition notices. Similarly, the problem of settler violence against Palestinians remains a longstanding concern. We call on the Israeli authorities to fulfil their obligations under international law to maintain public order in the occupied territory.

Palestinians must be protected from settler violence and the perpetrators must be held to account for their actions.

The fragile situation in Gaza, following the 11-day siege in May, requires an urgent international and cross-cutting approach, including addressing the impact of climate change on crop yields and quality of life. The pace of Gaza reconstruction needs to be accelerated, and unhindered humanitarian access to Gaza is critical, in order to address the basic needs of the Palestinian population and to ensure stability. To this end, we call on the international community to increase financial support to UN agencies, to help strengthen the Palestinian Authority's ability to assume its responsibility in the recovery and reconstruction of the Gaza Strip. Moreover, every effort should be made to encourage the fulfilment of pledges of assistance made at the International Conference on UNRWA in Brussels on 16 November 2021.

Mr. President, let me close by emphasizing once again: the only option for a comprehensive and just peace to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, is adhering to the long-established and agreed parameters for a two-State solution. In our efforts to help bring the desired lasting solution to this conflict, we must intensify our engagement and commitment to assist Palestinians and Israelis in reaching the two-State solution.

I thank you.