

Gaza Triumphs

By Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass, Secretary General



At the outset, respect must be paid to the people of Gaza for the remarkable victory they achieved over the occupying enemy. The people of Gaza today stand as a beacon of resilience, dignity, pride, and defiance in these trying times. It is imperative to pay tribute to the heroes of Gaza who, for over a year and a half, confronted an unparalleled aggression and genocide, the likes of which have never been witnessed in history, perpetrated by the Zionist entity with the support of the forces of evil and malevolence in the world. The perpetrators employed an array of weapons of mass destruction and prohibited methods of annihilation in Gaza, a city that demonstrated remarkable resilience despite being subjected to a blockade that prevented the delivery of water, food, and medicine, as well as incessant bombardment on a daily basis. This relentless onslaught led to the martyrdom of thousands, the disappearance of many more, and the complete destruction of Gaza.

Nevertheless, and despite the international community's abandonment of its duty to intervene in the situation in Gaza, the people of Gaza displayed remarkable resilience against the adversity they faced. They courageously withstood the appalling suffering inflicted upon them, and ultimately prevailed over the forces that sought to oppress them. Their victory against the so called "invincible army" was a testament to their fortitude and determination, and a profound rejection of the status quo. Moreover, the alliance of its supporters began to crumble when some of them realised that their support was founded upon a fallacy. A tribute is thus due to the steadfast people of Gaza and the brave heroes who resisted the enemy with unparalleled courage, achieving heroic feats of unparalleled bravery. Moreover, acknowledgement is due to the Islamic nations that demonstrated unwavering solidarity with the people of Gaza, providing substantial support. Some offered their blood, others their wealth, but all expressed their support for Gaza through every means available. This solidarity remains unshaken, and above all, these nations continually turn to God in prayer, calling for victory for Gaza over this criminal enemy. Likewise, a tribute is due to the free peoples of the world, who organised numerous demonstrations in support of Gaza's residents and pressured their respective governments to align with the principles of justice and human rights in the ongoing struggle between good and evil in Palestine. The events that have transpired in Gaza serve to reinforce the conviction of Muslims that God's promise of victory and empowerment for this nation is poised to be realised.



This issue of PUIC Bulletin brings together a collection of statements, news, and stances focused on the Palestinian cause in general, and the aggression on the Gaza Strip in particular. It aims to serve as a reference and reminder of the historic events that shaped the situation in Gaza during the past year and a half, which in turn exposed the weakness of the international system and its bias towards the oppressor at the expense of the oppressed.

This issue examines three main themes: First, the activities carried out by the PUIC in support of the Palestinian cause, especially since the escalation in the Gaza Strip began in October 2023; Second, the stances of PUIC member parliaments and the resolutions or statements adopted in this regard; Whereas the third theme highlights the notable changes in international stances towards Palestine and the impact of these changes on the international and regional political scene. The present issue embodies the PUIC's unwavering commitment to the Palestinian cause, through which we highlight the roles of the PUIC and its member parliaments in supporting the rights of the Palestinian people in international forums, as well as highlighting the shifts in international attitudes towards the issue, in light of the growing awareness of the justness of the Palestinian cause. As such, this issue does not only document the efforts of the PUIC and its members, but also extends a call to the international community to assume its responsibilities in ensuring justice and lasting peace for Palestine.



Gaza Siege: A Deepening Crisis and Systematic Destruction Policy

The Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip is grappling with a worsening humanitarian crisis due to the Israeli blockade imposed by the occupying authorities, with the aim of depriving them of basic necessities. Since the onset of the general Israeli blockade on Gaza in 2005, and more notably since the recent escalation, Israel has imposed a suffocating blockade, obstructing the entry of humanitarian aid through border crossings, thereby exacerbating the suffering of a population already enduring severe shortages of food and essential resources. The impacts of this blockade extend beyond the deprivation of necessities, as Israel's repeated targeting of humanitarian infrastructure has further compounded

the crisis. Ongoing attacks on vital facilities have worsened the humanitarian situation, contributing to increased mortality from malnutrition, dehydration, exposure to the cold, and the spread of diseases. As relief agencies struggle to reach those in need, their efforts face significant hindrances due to Israel's continued attacks on their facilities.

In a move aimed at disrupting international relief efforts, the Israeli Knesset has passed legislation prohibiting the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) from operating in the occupied Palestinian territories, which represents a significant shift in Israeli policy towards the Palestinian population in Gaza. The

law seeks to undermine the agency's ability to provide humanitarian aid, thereby complicating an already dire humanitarian situation.

Additionally, Israel continues to target Gaza's natural resources and production facilities, including water and electricity systems, in a bid to destroy the remaining foundations of life in the region. The current situation in Gaza is not merely a military escalation, it is a systematic policy aimed at dismantling all aspects of life in the region and stripping Palestinians of their fundamental rights to food, safety, and dignity. This urgent situation calls for immediate action from the international community to pressure Israel into halting these systematic violations.



As part of its ongoing efforts to support the Palestinian cause on the international stage, the PUIC continues to make important contributions to strengthening political and legal stances that reject all attempts to liquidate and marginalise Palestine and its people. Through the unwavering and consistent statements and stances issued by the PUIC and the speakers of its member parliaments, the PUIC reaffirmed its firm commitment to the Palestinian cause as the central issue in the regional and international parliamentary work.

For instance, on December 29, 2024, the PUIC Secretary-General condemned Israeli attacks targeting medical infrastructure in the Gaza Strip, including direct assaults on hospitals, which exacerbated the already dire humanitarian crisis faced by the people of Gaza. Prior to this, the Secretary-General welcomed the United Nations General Assembly resolutions demanding an immediate and unconditional ceasefire. These resolutions emphasized the importance of granting Gaza's population access to essential services and humanitarian aid while rejecting any attempts to starve the Palestinians or alter Gaza's demographic structure.

Additionally, the PUIC has been

actively engaging with international decisions aimed at achieving justice for Palestinians. On November 23, 2024, the PUIC welcomed the International Criminal Court's (ICC) decision to issue arrest warrants against the Israeli Prime Minister and his former Defense Minister on charges of committing war crimes in Gaza. Whereas earlier, on October 16, 2024, the PUIC condemned the ongoing Israeli genocide in Gaza, denouncing Israel's indiscriminate bombings targeting civilians, particularly in refugee camps such as Deir al-Balah and Nuseirat.

Demonstrating its unwavering commitment to the Palestinian cause, the PUIC Secretary-General also welcomed the signing of the Beijing Declaration on 28 July 2024, which fostered political unity among Palestinian factions. Prior to this, H.E. strongly condemned Israel's continued crimes in Gaza, affirming that the PUIC remains at the forefront of advocates for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

In addition to these stances, the PUIC has organized notable meetings to address the developments in Palestine. Key among these was the extraordinary meeting of the PUIC's Permanent Committee on Palestine held in Tehran on January 10,

2024, which explored ways to strengthen solidarity with the Palestinian people amid escalating developments in the Palestinian territories. The PUIC also convened an emergency virtual meeting on October 16, 2023, to discuss the grave situation in Palestine. Furthermore, the Presidential Troika of the PUIC and members of the Palestine Committee held an emergency virtual meeting on April 10, 2023, to address the Israeli escalation and its impact on regional peace and security. The PUIC continues to raise international awareness about crimes committed against Palestinians, relying on data and statistics from reputable organizations, such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and its observatory, which monitors Israeli violations against Palestinians, as well as the Arab Interparliamentary Union. The PUIC also recognizes international efforts, such as South Africa's legal action against Israel for its human rights violations. Through these initiatives and statements, the PUIC remains one of the most prominent international platforms defending Palestinian rights across all fields, striving to achieve justice and peace in the region while safeguarding the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

PUIC Activities



Stances in Defence of the Palestinian Cause The PUIC's role in highlighting members' efforts in supporting the Palestinian cause

IPU Islamic Group Meetings

As part of supporting the Palestinian cause and strengthening Islamic unity, the Palestinian cause received significant priority during the consultative meetings of the Islamic Group held on the sidelines of the Assemblies of the Interparliamentary Union (IPU). During those meetings, Member Parliaments adopted firm stances towards the Zionist aggression on Gaza and showcased their support

for the Palestinian people. At the consultative meeting held in Luanda in October 2023, it was agreed to submit an emergency item on the Israeli aggression on Gaza, with a committee of member parliaments mandated to draft the proposed text. At this meeting, PUIC members successfully secured a majority vote at the IPU General Assembly, thus marking a strong stance in defence of the Palestinian people.

In March 2024, during the group's meeting in Geneva, Islamic countries supported South Africa's proposal regarding the situation in Gaza, emphasizing the need to join efforts to pass the emergency item. By October 2024, the meeting in Geneva witnessed consensus to support the joint proposal by Palestine and Algeria, which garnered broad support from Arab and Islamic countries.

Since October 2023, the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC) has worked diligently to highlight the remarkable contributions made by its member parliaments in supporting the Palestinian cause. Through this unwavering commitment, the PUIC has been able to highlight members' stances in a remarkable way, amidst the crisis conditions witnessed in the Palestinian territories. As part of these efforts, the PUIC documented the statements made by Their Excellencies the Speakers of the Parliaments during recent PUIC meetings, where they expressed their firm stances against Israeli aggressions on Palestinian civilians in Gaza and the West Bank, and offered

strong support for the rights of the Palestinian people. Also highlighted were the statements issued by member parliaments, which emphasised their condemnation of Israeli practices, ranging from military aggression to attempts at demographic change. The PUIC has also made relentless efforts to unite member states, particularly in international fora such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). Member parliaments have consistently supported proposals and emergency items submitted by pro-Palestinian countries, highlighting the need to end the occupation and stop the crimes committed against Palestinians. Through such ongoing efforts, the PUIC remains a key platform for

coordinating parliamentary stances in support of the Palestinian cause, seeking to strengthen Palestine's status in international forums and achieve justice for its people. The following are some of the stances of the PUIC member parliaments on the Palestinian cause since the beginning of the Israeli escalation in October 2023. These stances reflect the parliaments' firm and continuous commitment to support Palestinian rights, as they manifest a shared spirit of solidarity with the Palestinian people against the brutal occupation, and reflect the members' commitment to strengthening international parliamentary action to achieve justice and peace in the region.


People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

H.E. Mr Brahim Boughali, Speaker of the Algerian People's National Assembly, and President of the Arab Interparliamentary Union, condemned the 'unprecedented barbaric war' to which the region is subjected in his speech during the 35th extraordinary session of the Executive Committee of the AIPU, held on 25 September 2024 in Cairo. H.E. called on the participants to join efforts to address the difficult challenges the world is facing, and emphasised the importance of this session in light of the escalating Zionist aggression and its expansion to Lebanon, calling for the inclusion of an emergency item on stopping the war in Gaza during the 149th General Assembly of the IPU.

H.E. also expressed regret over the unsuccessful adoption of this item in previous attempts, emphasising the importance of addressing the reasons that led to that. He also welcomed the growing international support for the Palestinian cause, pointing to the UNGA resolution calling for an end to the Zionist occupation within 12 months.


Kingdom of Bahrain

The Speaker of the Shura Council of Bahrain, H.E. Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, affirmed the Kingdom's commitment to supporting a just and comprehensive peace in the region. In a speech delivered during a Shura Council session on 22 October 2024, H.E. stressed the need to intensify regional and international efforts to stop the escalation in Gaza, ensure protection for civilians, guarantee access to humanitarian aid and prevent displacement, as well as the release of prisoners and detainees. H.E. praised the Bahraini national campaign for Gaza relief, which came in implementation of His Majesty the King's directives, noting that the Bahraini people and institutions cooperated with it, reflecting the highest form of solidarity with the Palestinian people, who are facing difficult humanitarian conditions as a result of the ongoing aggression.


People's Republic of Bangladesh

On 22 October 2023, the Parliament of Bangladesh adopted a resolution expressing deep sorrow and grief over the martyrdom of many Palestinian people as a result of Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip and other parts of Palestine. Introduced by former Speaker, Honourable Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, the resolution, which was unanimously approved, expressed the Parliament's deepest condolences to the families of the victims and prayed for mercy for the lives lost as a result of these attacks. In the resolution, the Parliament reiterated its full solidarity with the Palestinian people in their ordeal, emphasising its condemnation of these acts, which contradict the principles of humanity and international law.


Burkina Faso

During the Emergency Arab-Islamic Summit held in Riyadh on 11 November 2024, the Speaker of the Transitional Legislative Assembly of Burkina Faso, H.E. Mr. Ousmane Bougouma, highlighted the dire humanitarian fallout faced by civilians in Palestine and Lebanon as a result of the Israeli strikes. In his speech, H.E. stressed the need for the international community to intervene to restore peace in Palestine and Lebanon, noting the deteriorating humanitarian situation and especially the fate of civilians caught up in the conflict. H.E. added: "There is no winner in war, everyone is a loser, and the atrocities we see confirm this."


Republic of Cote d'Ivoire

The President of the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire, H.E. Mr Adama Bictogo, took part, from 13 to 18 October 2024, in the 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) held in Geneva. On the sidelines of the General Assembly, a meeting of the Islamic Group was held, where the situations in Palestine and Lebanon were discussed with a call to end the ongoing conflicts there, and His Excellency presented his country's vision in this context.


Arab Republic of Egypt

In a television interview with Mr Ahsan Mohsen, a deputy in the Egyptian House of Representatives and undersecretary of the Arab Affairs Committee, Mr Mohsen stressed Egypt's pioneering role in providing support to its Arab brothers in light of the worsening crises in the region. He further added that Egypt's stance is honourable, as it receives millions of refugees and provides humanitarian aid to affected countries. He also noted that Egypt seeks to shed light on the suffering of the Arab peoples and defend their rights in international forums, and denounced the international silence on the violations against the Palestinian people in Gaza, calling on the international community to take concrete steps to stop these violations.


Republic of The Gambia

On 29 April 2024, the Speaker of the National Assembly of The Gambia, H.E. Mr. Fabakary Tombong Jatta, during his participation in the Conference of the League of Parliamentarians for Al-Quds, called on parliamentarians to use their status and influence to demand an immediate cessation of the Israeli military operation against the Palestinian people in Gaza. H.E. emphasised that standing with the Palestinian cause has transcended political boundaries and has become a sacred moral obligation, noting that parliamentarians have the power to advocate for justice and raise the voices of the

oppressed. H.E. also stressed the importance of upholding the values of freedom, equality and dignity for all peoples, including Palestinians.


Republic of Indonesia

The Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Committee of the Indonesian House of Representatives called on the United Nations to revoke the membership of the Zionist entity, following its continuous crimes that resulted in mass casualties. The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Mardani Ali Sera, stressed that these actions constitute a blatant violation of the UN Charter, which is founded on the principles of peace, respect for human, rights and international co-operation. He also noted that the recent Arab-Islamic Summit in Riyadh had passed a resolution in its Final Communiqué calling for the freezing of the Zionist entity's membership in the United Nations and calling for decisive international action to isolate Israel from the international community. He also stressed that the Malaysian House of Representatives, in line with its government's policy, will continue to support Palestine through all diplomatic means.


Islamic Republic of Iran

His Excellency Mr Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, participated in a student march on 3 October 2024 in support of the Palestinian and Lebanese people. Moreover, during a meeting attended by ambassadors of Islamic countries and representatives of the National Security Committee of the Iranian Parliament in Tehran on 22 October 2024, His Excellency emphasised the vital role of the media in exposing Israeli crimes to the world. H.E. further explained that intellectuals and all social groups are called upon to raise awareness in countering these violations, and emphasised that unity and solidarity among Muslims are essential to face challenges, stressing that unity in support of Palestine is necessary to deter enemies, while division serves the interests of the enemies of the Islamic Ummah.


Republic of Iraq

The Speaker of the Iraqi Parliament, H.E. Dr Mahmoud Al-Mashhadani, received on 23 December 2024, the Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Iraq, Mr Ahmed Al-Ruwaidi. In their discussion of the ongoing war in Gaza, the Iraqi Parliament Speaker stressed the need to work towards an immediate cessation of the war and the restoration of normal life in Gaza, with a focus on mitigating the effects of the aggression and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid. H.E. expressed Iraq's firm stance in support of the

Palestinian cause, stressing that it will continue to provide full support to the Palestinian people until they achieve independence. Meanwhile, the Palestinian ambassador expressed his deep appreciation to Iraq for its continuous efforts to support Palestine in international forums, praising Iraq's unwavering stances towards the Palestinian cause.


Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

H.E. Mr Ahmad Al Safadi, Speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives, condemned the burning of Kamal Adwan Hospital in the Gaza Strip by the occupation forces, stressing that this crime represents a flagrant violation of international law and joins the series of crimes committed by the occupation against the Palestinian people. H.E. called on Arab and Islamic parliaments to call on international parliaments to pressure their governments to hold the war criminals of the occupation leaders accountable before UN bodies, stressing the importance of the international community assuming its moral and legal responsibilities to stop the war on Gaza and bring those responsible for these brutal crimes to justice.


State of Kuwait

On 1 November 2023, the Kuwaiti National Assembly approved 13 recommendations regarding the Zionist violations in Gaza, affirming its solidarity with the Palestinian people and their right to resist the occupation and secure their legitimate rights. The recommendations included prosecuting the leaders of the occupation as war criminals, establishing a fund for the reconstruction of Gaza, and supporting diplomatic efforts to end the aggression. The Assembly also called for the opening of crossings and the provision of humanitarian aid, in addition to strengthening efforts to receive the wounded in Kuwaiti hospitals. It also called for mobilising international and regional support to stop the aggression, protect civilians, and ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza.


Republic of Lebanon

In a statement delivered on the occasion of the Prophet's Birthday on 16 September 2024, the Speaker of the Lebanese Parliament, His Excellency Mr Nabih Berry, affirmed that Palestine and South Lebanon are the benchmarks of truth against falsehood. He noted: "On this blessed occasion, we look to Palestine, the land of Israa and Mi'raj, to the soil fed by the blood of the martyrs. We look to Lebanon, the land of sacrifice, resilience, redemption, martyrdom and martyrs", underlining the values that everyone must adopt in the face of injustice. H.E. also called for promoting the values of unity and compassion as a way to achieve peace

in the world, and emphasised that what is happening in Palestine is a test of the global conscience, and that Israel represents “absolute evil” in the region.



Libya

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the Libyan House of Representatives expressed its regret over the failure of the Security Council to Implement a ceasefire in Gaza, considering it an international failure to the people of the Gaza Strip. The Committee warned of negative effects on regional stability resulting from the continuation of military operations in Rafah, where the population faces starvation due to the lack of food, water and medicine. The Committee emphasised that the actions of the occupation forces and their blocking of humanitarian aid amounted to genocidal crimes, calling for holding those responsible accountable. It also expressed concern about the escalation of Israeli violations in the West Bank, including killings, arrests and destruction of property.



Malaysia

The Speaker of the Malaysian Parliament, His Excellency Mr Johari Abdul, condemned the Israeli crimes committed against the Palestinians, calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. In his statement, he emphasised that the issue of Gaza has become a global humanitarian concern about values and consciences, as Palestinians are treated as if their lives are insignificant under Israel’s continuous violations. H.E. stressed that a ceasefire is not enough to end the suffering of the Palestinians, rather, decisive steps must be taken to enable them to establish their state and restore their stolen rights. He noted that the world is simply watching while the Palestinians suffer from oppression, occupation and the deprivation of their freedom, and called on the international community to assume its moral and humanitarian responsibilities to support the Palestinian people and ensure their legitimate right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state.



Republic of Mali

On 10 April 2024, a high-level delegation from the National Transitional Council of the Republic of Mali participated in an extraordinary meeting held in Tehran, Iran, of the PUIC Standing Committee on Palestine, where MPs from member parliaments expressed their joint stance in support of an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and all Palestinian territories. Participants emphasised the need to protect the Palestinian people and put an end to Israeli aggression, reiterating their commitment to support the legitimate rights of the Palestinians and the establishment of their independent state.



Kingdom of Morocco

The Vice-Chair of the Foreign Affairs, National Defence, and Islamic Affairs Committee of the Moroccan House of Representatives, Mrs. Nadia El Kansouri, together with a member of the Committee’s Bureau, Mr. Abdelali Broki, received on 25 October 2024, a Palestinian delegation from the National People’s Congress for Al-Quds (NPC) and the Islamic Christian Committee for the Protection of Al-Quds and the Holy Places, which visited the Kingdom of Morocco following an invitation from the Bait Mal Al-Quds Al-Sharif Agency. In her speech, Mrs El Kansouri stressed the importance of strengthening Arab and Islamic unity to support the Palestinian cause, noting that Moroccan MPs seize every opportunity in regional and international parliamentary forums to support the Palestinian cause. Members of the delegation also praised Morocco’s great role in supporting Al-Quds and Gaza, noting the Moroccan parliament’s role in supporting the Palestinian cause in international forums, as well as its role in supporting the Palestinian cause.



Republic of Niger

The Fourth Vice President of the National Transitional Council of Mali, speaking at the PUIC Executive Committee meeting held in Rabat, Morocco on 10 September 2024, reaffirmed Mali’s commitment to the PUIC’s stance supporting Palestine, and expressed his country’s full solidarity with the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people. H.E. also offered, on behalf of the highest authorities of Mali, the National Transitional Council and the Malian people, his heartfelt condolences following the assassination of Mr Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran on 31 July 2024, praying to God to bless him with His mercy.



Federal Republic of Nigeria

The Vice Speaker of the Nigerian Parliament, His Excellency Mr Benjamin Okezie Kalu, in his speech at the 149th IPU General Assembly in Geneva, reaffirmed the commitment of Nigeria to resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. H.E. noted that Nigeria advocates for a peaceful settlement based on justice, self-determination and mutual respect between the two states. H.E. emphasised Nigeria’s support for a two-state solution that guarantees an independent State of Palestine alongside Israel. He also stressed that lasting peace cannot be achieved through violence, but through serious dialogue and mutual respect, and called on the international community to renew its commitment to end the occupation and support the establishment of a Palestinian state.



Sultanate of Oman

During his participation in the 149th General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Geneva, the Speaker of the Omani Shura Council, H.E. Mr Khalid Al Maawali, reaffirmed Oman’s commitment to supporting the Palestinian cause. During the meetings, H.E. was named Chairman of the committee dealing with the emergency item submitted by the Palestinian National Council and the Algerian Parliament, which aims to enhance coordination in support of Palestinian rights. In his speech, H.E. highlighted the suffering of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip as a result of the Zionist aggression, stressing the need to put an end to the military escalation and to join parliamentary efforts to support the Palestinian people and their cause in international forums, to achieve peace and justice.



Islamic Republic of Pakistan

The Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, H.E. Mr Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, in his New Year message, expressed his hope that this year would bring peace, progress and prosperity to Pakistan and emphasised that this occasion is an opportunity to reflect on the path of development and strengthen national unity, calling on political parties to join hands and work together for the upliftment of Pakistan. H.E. also called on the Pakistani people to pray for their Palestinian and Kashmiri brothers who are facing injustice and oppression, expressing his hope that the new year will see an improvement in the situation in Palestine and Kashmir. He

also called on the international community to take effective action to end the violations against the two peoples and work towards finding a just solution to their causes.



State of Qatar

In its regular weekly session held on 30 December 2024, the Qatari Shura Council, chaired by H.E. Mr. Hassan Abdulla Al-Ghanim, expressed its strong condemnation of the Israeli occupation forces’ burning of Kamal Adwan Hospital in Gaza, considering it a war crime and a blatant violation of international laws. The Council also condemned the storming of the Al Aqsa Mosque by the Israeli security minister, considering it a blatant provocation to the feelings of Muslims and a violation of the holy sites. The Council also called on parliaments and international organisations to pressure the occupation to stop these violations.



Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

During his visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, His Excellency Dr Abdullah Al Sheikh, Speaker of the Shura Council of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, met with the Speaker of the Jordanian Senate, His Excellency Faisal El-Fayez. The meeting, held on 17 April 2024, addressed the current situation in the region and the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank, with both sides stressing the need to stop this brutal aggression and open all crossings to deliver humanitarian and medical aid to the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.



Council. The two parties discussed, in the presence of Ms Sawsan Mabrouk, Deputy Speaker of the Tunisian Parliament, ways to strengthen parliamentary relations and joint cooperation between Tunisia and the UAE, especially in light of the current challenges facing the Arab Nation. The Emirati delegation stressed the importance of continuous coordination between the two parliaments, especially in the meetings of the Arab Parliament. During the meeting, the two parties stressed the need to mobilise international efforts to support the right of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state, with Al Quds Al Sharif as its capital, and to stop the brutal crimes committed against them. The two sides highlighted the importance of coordination and joint action within the framework of parliamentary diplomacy to push for an immediate ceasefire and support the rights of the Palestinians.

Republic of Türkiye

In his speech at the NATO Summit of Speakers of Parliaments hosted by the US Congress to mark NATO's 75th anniversary, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (GNAT), H.E Mr Numan Kurtulmuş, said: "we cannot ignore the immense humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, one of the most pressing global challenges. Israel's massacres must be stopped and further bloodshed must be prevented." During his visit in Washington, Mr. Numan Kurtulmuş, told The Washington Post that the stance towards the war between Russia and Ukraine and Israel's inhumane attacks on Palestinian territories, especially Gaza, is a double standard and discrimination and cannot be accepted. He stated: "This is very clear hypocrisy, a double standard. This is blatant discrimination. If you don't regard Palestinian victims as equal to Ukrainian victims, it means that you want to establish a kind of hierarchy within humanity. And that is unacceptable."

State of the United Arab Emirates

His Excellency Mr Saqr Ghobash, Speaker of the Federal National Council, stressed during his chairmanship of the 18th regular meeting of the Speakers of the Gulf Legislative Councils that the Gulf States will remain a gateway to world peace. H.E. emphasised the UAE's stance calling for an immediate end to the war in Gaza and Lebanon, and support for the Palestinian and Lebanese people. H.E. also highlighted the strong bond between the Gulf states and the importance of enhancing co-operation and co-ordination between them to support security, stability, and development. The attendees also emphasised the importance of strengthening joint Gulf and Arab action and activating the role of Gulf and Arab parliamentary diplomacy in international fora.

Republic of Senegal

The Speaker of the Senegalese National Assembly, H.E. Mr Malick Ndiaye, received the Palestinian Ambassador to Senegal, Nasser Jadallah, on Wednesday 8 January 2025, as part of efforts to strengthen bilateral relations and parliamentary diplomacy. During the meeting, H.E. the Speaker expressed his deep concern over the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza, describing the crisis as a 'massacre'. He also advocated for a swift return to peace and a lasting solution to this crisis. The Speaker noted that the continued violence in Gaza poses a threat to the stability of the entire region, calling on the international community to fulfil its moral and humanitarian responsibilities towards the Palestinian people.

Republic of Tunisia

On 16 September 2024, the Speaker of the Tunisian House of People's Representatives, H.E. Mr Brahim Bouderbala, received an Emirati delegation headed by Mr Mohammed Ahmed Al Yamahi, a member of the UAE Federal National



The Role of the UN and the ICJ in Defending Palestinian Rights

Following the Israeli military escalation in October 2023, the United Nations (UN) strongly condemned Israeli attacks targeting Palestinian civilians in Gaza. UN Secretary-General Mr. António Guterres issued a statement calling for an immediate cessation of military operations and the opening of humanitarian crossings. The UN also called for the protection of civilians in accordance with international humanitarian law, and warned of the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the besieged Gaza Strip. It also emphasised the need to respect the rights of Palestinians, especially in light of the ongoing violations by Israeli forces, including attacks on medical facilities and schools. Despite this public stance, there were distinct challenges to the UN's attempts to achieve a unified stance among its members, as there were conflicts between Western powers that defended Israel's "right to self-defence", and Arab and Muslim countries that demanded the

enforcement of UN resolutions related to Palestinian rights, including those on settlement cessation and the return of refugees.



The UN General Assembly has consistently called for a comprehensive political solution based on the relevant UN resolutions, especially Resolution 242, which calls for Israel's withdrawal from the territories it occupied in 1967, including East al-Quds. However, as military operations continued, the UN continued to try to highlight the suffering of Palestinian civilians, sending missions from various UN agencies to provide urgent humanitarian support.

As part of the UN's support for the rights of the Palestinian people, the General Assembly continued to adopt important resolutions reflecting its commitment to the Palestinian cause. Thus, 2024 witnessed an upsurge in UN stances in support of Palestine at various levels. On 10 May 2024, the General Assembly adopted a resolution supporting Palestine's application for full membership in the UN and recommending the Security Council to positively reconsider the application. The resolution also granted Palestine additional rights and



privileges related to its participation in the works of the UN, emphasising the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state. Meanwhile, on 18 September 2024, the General Assembly adopted a resolution demanding that Israel end its “illegal presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory” within 12 months, which was supported by 124 countries. Similarly, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has played an important role in the analysis of legal violations committed by Israel in the Palestinian territories. In 2023, international pressure mounted on the ICJ to rule on matters related to international humanitarian law, particularly in relation to Israel’s occupation of Palestinian territories and Israeli policies in Gaza and the West Bank. In 2024, the ICJ issued a decision on the legality of the continued Israeli occupation. This long-awaited decision clearly indicated that Israel’s policy of building settlements in the West Bank constitutes a violation of international law, further strengthening the position

of Palestinians in the growing calls for the implementation of international resolutions demanding the cessation



of these activities. The Court also issued recommendations that Israel must cease its oppressive practices in Gaza, such as the blockade and denial of access to basic needs. In a bold move, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for the Israeli Prime Minister and his former Defence Minister, charging them with direct responsibility for the crimes committed against civilians in Gaza. This development sparked widespread controversy on the international stage and increased pressure on the international community to take a tougher stance towards Israel. However, despite these legal positions, the ICJ did not take practical steps to implement its decisions, which sparked criticism from some countries that saw the court’s position as a kind of legal inertia in addressing the humanitarian issues suffered by the Palestinian people. International reports have also noted that the ICJ, despite its ability to provide legal advice, does not have an actual mechanism to enforce its decisions on major states.



Shifts in European Stances Following 7 October 2023 and the Recognition of the State of Palestine

Following the painful events that took place in Palestine in general and in Gaza in particular after 7 October, the international community witnessed a noticeable shift in the stances of many countries and organisations towards the Palestinian cause. These events alerted the world to the extent of the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, especially in the Gaza Strip, which was subjected to large-scale Israeli military operations that resulted in thousands of casualties, most of whom were civilians. In light of this situation, many countries began to take a clearer stance in support of the rights of the Palestinian people, in particular by taking official steps to recognise the State of Palestine.

One of the most prominent countries to take a historic step in this direction was Spain, which announced in May 2024 that it would officially recognise the State of Palestine. The

announcement came after mounting pressure from Spanish civil society,



which had witnessed a large rally in solidarity with the Palestinians against the backdrop of Israeli escalation. This move by Spain was seen as a significant development in the broader context of European support for Palestine, with other European nations also adopting similar stances. Ireland, an established proponent of human rights in conflict zones, further demonstrated its commitment to the Palestinian cause by officially recognising the State of Palestine in the same year, thereby reaffirming its unwavering support for the rights of the Palestinian people to regain their land and establish an independent state. Moreover, Ireland is among the European nations that have persistently advocated for Palestinian rights in international forums, consistently urging that pressure be applied on Israel to cease its human rights violations. Norway has also been quick to declare its support for Palestinian rights,



emphasising the need to find a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian cause. The recognition of the State of Palestine at that juncture signalled Norway's disapproval of Israel's persistent occupation and aggression against the Palestinian people. By aligning itself with this international front, Norway has committed to supporting Palestinian rights and challenging the ongoing Israeli occupation.

In the context of providing support for the Palestinian cause, significant political developments have also been witnessed in France and Italy. For instance, the French National Assembly established the French-Palestinian Friendship Group, with the stated objective of enhancing parliamentary relations and solidarity with the Palestinians. In Italy, popular and official support has increased, with parliamentary events held to highlight the Palestinian suffering. This development signifies a noteworthy shift in the stance of several European nations towards the Palestinian issue. Slovenia, also notable for its diplomatic and moral commitment to the Palestinian cause, is another salient example of this evolving international



landscape. In May 2024, the Slovenian government expressed its support for the recognition of the State of Palestine, emphasising that this position reflects its commitment to the principles of justice and respect for the rights of

peoples to self-determination. The Slovenian leadership has emphasised that this step is not merely a political measure, but rather part of its responsibility towards the promotion of peace and stability in the region. In doing so, Slovenia has strengthened the European front in support of Palestinian rights, calling for an end to the occupation and justice for the Palestinian people.

The prevailing sentiment of public sympathy for the Palestinian cause, evident since the onset of the Israeli escalation in October 2023, has been further underscored by widespread demonstrations in numerous Western capitals, which were organised to condemn Israel's repeated attacks on Palestinian civilians. These demonstrations have drawn widespread attention to the need for an immediate cessation of hostilities and the lifting of the blockade on Gaza. Furthermore, numerous solidarity campaigns have been initiated through various media and social media channels to raise awareness of the ongoing suffering of the Palestinian people and present an alternative narrative to that adopted by certain Western governments.



Latin American Stances Towards Palestinian Cause Amidst Global Changes

A notable shift in the stance of Latin American and Caribbean countries towards the Palestinian cause has been observed, manifesting in a substantial augmentation of diplomatic support and a pronounced condemnation of Israeli military operations in Gaza. This support transcended mere media declarations, encompassing concrete and unparalleled actions, signifying a radical shift in the positions of countries that have historically been regarded as allies of the US and Israel. For instance, Colombia, a nation that had been among the first to initiate military and intelligence cooperation with Tel Aviv, was among the countries that recalled its diplomats to protest the Israeli escalation in Gaza. Likewise, Bolivia, which had previously severed ties with Israel on the grounds that it had committed 'crimes against humanity', also joined the list of countries

adopting firm stances in support of the Palestinian people.

While certain countries, including Brazil and Mexico, have sought to maintain a neutral stance, the ongoing escalation of violence in Gaza has prompted their leaders to issue strongly worded statements. The Brazilian President, Lula da Silva, termed the Israeli attacks "genocide", asserting that the ongoing situation does not constitute a war but rather a systematic destruction of the Palestinian people. This statement prompted Israel to declare da Silva "persona non grata". In addition to issuing statements, Latin American and Caribbean countries have adopted diplomatic and legal actions in support of the Palestinians. At the International Court of Justice, countries such as Brazil, Colombia, Chile and Bolivia have expressed support for South Africa's case against Israel for genocide, while

Chile, Mexico and Bolivia have made referrals to the International Criminal Court to investigate potential war crimes in the Palestinian territories.





These actions have resulted in a notable shift in the geopolitical landscape, leading to a clear delineation of positions between Latin America and the United States and certain European countries. However, this shift is indicative of a growing commitment among Latin American countries to advocate for the rights of the Palestinian people on the international stage.

It is also noteworthy that these shifts have not been limited to legal and diplomatic positions. Caribbean countries such as Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Barbados have recognised a Palestinian state on the 1967 borders. This shift in stance is notable given the historical connections between these nations and Israel, suggesting a shift in diplomatic priorities. The decision of these Caribbean states to recognise a Palestinian state aligns with broader humanitarian considerations and mounting international pressure, reflecting a commitment to principles of justice and human rights.

Despite robust opposition from the United States and Israel, the majority of Latin American and Caribbean countries expressed support for UN resolutions that called for a cessation of hostilities in Gaza and the lifting of the siege. Furthermore, a significant

number of these nations also extended their support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in terms of funding, thereby underscoring their commitment to alleviating the humanitarian suffering of Palestinians. The reasons for this regional support for the Palestinian cause are multifaceted. Primarily, the substantial number of casualties and destruction in Gaza triggered a wave of solidarity with the Palestinians, enabling Latin American governments to adopt more assertive stances towards Israel. Secondly, the historical legacy of solidarity between leftist movements in Latin America and the Palestinians, which deepened during the Cold War when the Palestine Liberation Organisation supported the struggles of people in the region against repressive US-backed dictatorships. Finally, recent political shifts in the region have seen the rise of leftist governments sympathetic to issues of national liberation and resistance against hegemony.

In light of these developments, it can be argued that the stances adopted by Latin America and the Caribbean in relation to the Palestinian cause has undergone a significant shift, transcending traditional political considerations and embracing a commitment to the principles of human justice. This shift has led to the emergence of a strong alliance and support from this region within international forums in favour of the Palestinian cause.

Editorial Board

Editor in Chief:

Mohamed El Hafed Maham

Executive Editor:

Moncef Saber

Address:

34, Pesyan St. Moghadas Ardabili,
Za'afaraniyeh -
Tehran - Iran

Tel: +9821 22418860-1-2

Fax: +9821 22418858-59

Email: g.s@puic.org

Site: www.puic.org