



GROUP OF FRIENDS  
IN DEFENSE OF THE  
CHARTER OF THE  
**UNITED NATIONS**

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE BOLIVARIAN  
REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING THE  
QUARTERLY OPEN DEBATE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON “THE  
SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF  
PALESTINE”**

*New York, 17 July 2024*

**Mr. President,**

1. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has the honor to take the floor on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations, whose Member States convey their appreciation to the briefers for their much valuable and insightful presentations.

**Mr. President,**

2. It has been now over nine (09) months since the latest and most regrettable spiral of violence, death and destruction that has struck the State of Palestine, and which has claimed, according to official figures, the life of over 38,000 innocent civilians, particularly women and children. This figure, however, could be only a fraction of the real number, according to the findings of a study recently published, which puts the death toll at over 186,000.
3. We therefore would like to first and foremost both reaffirm our firm commitment to the just cause of Palestine, and renew our unwavering solidarity with the people of Palestine, who we join in their struggle to achieve their inalienable rights, freedom and justice. We also convey our heartfelt condolences to the families and loved ones of the fatal victims of the most recent massacre committed by the Occupying Power against the Palestinian people, which, this time, claimed the lives of over 100 innocent civilians, following the strikes against the Al-Mawasi refugee camp, near Khan Younis, and the Nusseirat refugee camp.
4. Having said that, we underscore the urgent need of redoubling international efforts to effectively advance in a much-needed process of accountability for the commission of atrocious crimes by Israel, the Occupying Power, against the Palestinian people, in which all relevant mechanisms of international justice are expected to play a responsible role, in order to put an end to the prevailing cycle of impunity, which has only emboldened Israel, the Occupying Power, to



perpetuate over time this protracted tragedy, as well as its criminal policies and practices against the Palestinian people, which they have now endured for over seven decades and from which millions of Palestinian civilians, including Palestine refugees, continue to suffer under occupation, most devastatingly at this time in the Gaza Strip.

5. Similarly, we reaffirm our support to relevant efforts towards justice and accountability, including those aimed at investigating the atrocity crimes committed against the Palestinian people, at identifying and prosecuting those responsible for war crimes against the Palestinian people, and at providing reparations for damage, loss or injury arising from the crimes committed by the Occupying Power.

**Mr. President,**

6. This Security Council also has a responsibility, which is yet to be fulfilled. This is the body with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, as mandated by the Charter of the United Nations. Nevertheless, thus far, it has been prevented from fully and effectively exercising its duties, due to the negative vote continuously casted by one of its permanent members – the United States of America – when it comes to constructive and responsible proposals on the Question of Palestine, which has established over time a framework of impunity in favor of the Occupying Power.
7. In this context, we condemn Israel's decision to blatantly disregard and systematically violate its legally binding obligations, including those derived from the norms of international humanitarian law, as well as from the multiple Security Council resolutions on the Question of Palestine – which are legally binding by virtue of Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations – and the orders of provisional measures issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ).
8. We urge this body once again to shoulder its responsibilities, including on the basis of the relevant provisions of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, and to also ensure that its resolutions are both fully respected and implemented. The Palestinian people has heroically endured it all over decades, and with an implacable intensity over the past months: from apartheid and occupation policies to illegal settlements; from sieges and blockades to home demolitions; from military brutality and terror to war crimes and crimes against humanity. The entire international community has now been witnessing for far too long this ongoing carnage against the Palestinian people. How much longer will it take this Security Council to adopt a resolution demanding an immediate and permanent ceasefire, respected by all parties? How much longer will it take this Security Council to



demand an end to the provision of means to the Occupying Power to further prolong the human suffering of the Palestinian people?

9. Therefore, we cannot overemphasize, in light of the increasingly dire and dramatic character of the situation on the ground, the importance of reaching such a ceasefire, as well as an end to the provisions of means to perpetuate this already protracted tragedy, confident that it will no doubt be a step in the right direction for putting an end to years of collective punishment and suffering endured by the Palestinian civilian population, and widespread destruction, while allowing for humanitarian actors on the ground, including United Nations Specialized Agencies, led by UNRWA – whose indispensable role, work and contributions we recognize and applaud –, to provide rapid and unhindered support and assistance to those in desperate need, including to alleviate the acute food insecurity affecting the entire population and the horrific conditions of famine in northern Gaza.
10. In this context, we insist on the importance of removing all current impediments for the delivery, in a consistent, safe and at scale manner, of humanitarian aid critically needed to alleviate the ongoing catastrophe on the ground, and for which it is also necessary to guarantee an environment in which humanitarian actors can carry their mission safely and effectively, without obstructions, threats and harassment, as stipulated by international humanitarian law.

**Mr. President,**

11. There is yet another related area in which this Security Council has also failed, and that is with regards to the long overdue admission of the State of Palestine as a full Member State of the United Nations. We urge this body to reconsider favorably the question of the request of the State of Palestine for admission to membership in the United Nations, in strict conformity with Article 4 of the UN Charter, so that the State of Palestine can take once and for all its rightful place among the community of nations. This matter, which cannot be perpetuated *ad infinitum*, would not only be an important expression of the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and independence, but would also put us on a forward-looking path, to bring an end to one of the most painful conflicts of our times. It is, on top of it all, a much-needed act of justice and decolonization, on which the Occupying Power shall have no say.
12. Moreover, we seize this opportunity to also express our serious concern at the continued attempts of the Occupying Power to ignite and explode the Middle East region, as demonstrated, among others, by its reiterated aggressions against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, coupled with the



non-stop threats against Lebanon, including recent exchanges of fire across the Blue Line, which demonstrate an intent to expand its illegal aggressions in the region, at the expense of the human rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories. We cannot overemphasize, that a further dangerous destabilization of the situation must be prevented, in order to prevent a spillover effect into the entire Middle East region which will have grave repercussions and ultimately unchain a full-scale regional conflict with ramifications on international peace and security. We call on all relevant actors to strictly abide by the norms of international law and to exercise maximum restraint.

13. In this context, we stress that establishing peace in the Middle East requires Israel's withdrawal from **all** occupied Arab territories, including the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, and implementing relevant United Nations resolutions, most notably Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), and 497 (1981), which reaffirmed that the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, and that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the occupied Syrian Golan is null, void and have no international legal effect.
14. To conclude, the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations reaffirms its commitment to sparing no effort in contributing towards the preservation of a credible political horizon that can lead to the realization of a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, on the internationally-recognized legal basis, including relevant UN resolutions, and the exercise of the inalienable right to self-determination of the Palestinian people and the achievement of its independent and sovereign State of Palestine, in the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and a solution that also ensures the right of return of the refugees of Palestine.

I thank you, Mr. President.