State of Palestine
Office of the Prime Minister
For Immediate Release
Feb 5th, 2019

The Palestinian Government Meeting Brief Statement

The Government condemns the latest news of the Israeli government on its intention to deduct the allocations of prisoners and martyrs families from the Palestinian tax funds, praises the joint UN statement on the violations of the Israeli occupation and settlers against the education sector in Palestine, and deplores the approval of the occupation government to build a cable car in the Occupied City of Jerusalem.

During its weekly meeting held in Ramallah today, the Palestinian Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Dr. Rami Hamdallah,

- **C**ondemned the latest news of the Israeli government on its intention to deduct the allocations of prisoners and martyrs families from the Palestinian tax funds. The Government stressed that this news, which is coordinated with the US administration in order to exercise various pressures aim at forcing the Palestinian leadership to accept the so-called "Deal of Century." The Government announced *"The Palestinian tax funds are public funds that belong to the Palestinian citizens and the Treasury. Deducting these revenues is an Israeli piracy of the billions of Palestinian funds that have been looted and a clear violation of Israel's obligations under the signed agreements, particularly, the Paris Economic Protocol."*

- **C**onfirmed the Palestinian leadership, headed by President Mahmoud Abbas, already announced its refusal of the US aid, and rejection to submit to bargaining and blackmail. *"We are committed to the rights of the prisoners and martyrs families. We are keen to provide them with a decent life. We stand with the Palestinian prisoners and their families until they are freed without restrictions. We will head to international courts and institutions, and take all legal, judicial, and diplomatic measures to address this attack on our public money,"* the Government stated. Adding that, *"Israel, the Occupying Power, must stop the organized terrorism of its settler militia and halt its daily arrests and murders against the defenseless Palestinian citizens instead of its piracy and extortion."* The Government said, *"The US administration must stop its policy of incitement and pressure, while it provides billions of dollars to Israel, the Occupying Power and continues to protect it while ignoring the crimes it commits against the defenseless Palestinian citizens."*

- **W**arned of the ongoing Israeli violations against the Occupied City of Jerusalem, pointing out the latest decision to establish a cable car in the occupied city of Jerusalem, which connects the holy part of the city with its west in a move that aims at tightening the Israeli control over the occupied city and increasing its excavation works. *"We call upon the international community to fight the systematic attempts of the Israeli government to*

change the historical reality in Jerusalem through excavations and tunnels, theft of archeology and history and settlement building, in addition to the construction of synagogues and Talmudic gardens." The Government also demanded the UNESCO *"to intervene immediately to stop the implementation of such settlement project, which threatens the history of Jerusalem and its cultural heritage, especially the most important landmarks of historic Jerusalem."*

- **P**raised the joint UN statement issued by Jamie McGoldrick, the Humanitarian Coordinator for the Pccupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), the UNICEF Special Representative, Genevieve Boutin, and the UNESCO, which expressed deep concerns over the Israeli violations against the education sector in Palestine. The Palestinian education sector has been subjected to increasing attacks and violations, including the injury of several members of the educational institute, demolition orders of a number of schools, several incursions accompanied by live ammunition, sound and gas bombs, preventing students and teachers from their safe access to schools. In its turn, the Government criticized the crimes of the Israeli occupation and settlers against the Palestinian education sector, its institutions, and workers. *"We call on the international community to deal seriously with the contents of this report as it warns of the dangers and consequences of targeting the educational institutions by Israeli settler militias,"* The Cabinet said.

- **H**ailed the declaration of the Council of Socialist International regarding the procedure to protect Palestine and preserve the "two-state solution" and to invite the Member States to:
    - Take concrete steps to save the prospects for a just and lasting peace between Palestine and "Israel" and the rest of the region,
    - Reaffirm the right of the Palestinian nation to self-determination, including the right to an independent State of Palestine on the 1967 borders with Occupied Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with international law,
    - End the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories, which began in 1967, to achieve the two-state solution,
    - Reach a just negotiated solution to the Palestinian refugee's issue,
    - Call upon the US administration to reconsider its unilateral steps, biased to "Israel", condemning the US withdrawal from the UN Human Rights Council, and the UNESCO, and the recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of "Israel" and aid cutoffs to the UNRWA,
    - Call upon the international community to adopt an international conference for the Middle East settlement process based on the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, international law and the Arab Peace Initiative
- **S**tressed that the adoption of these important resolutions by the Socialist International reaffirms the importance of the international standing with the Palestinian issue to prove the Israeli propaganda wrong. The Palestinian Cabinet urged the Socialist International member states and governments to implement these resolutions and to compel the Israeli occupation to abide by international resolutions and laws. Moreover, the Cabinet called upon countries that have not yet recognized the State of Palestine to recognize it as an investment in peace and to protect the two-state solution.

- **C**ondemned the decision of the Israeli occupation government to end the mission of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron. *"This action gives the green light to the occupation and its settlers to commit more crimes in the city and other Palestinian territories, and constitutes a flagrant violation of the Geneva Conventions and resolutions of the international legitimacy, especially the UN Security Council Resolution No. 904, issued after the massacre of the Ibrahimi Mosque in 1994,"* The Government stated. The Government also noted, *"Israel's unilateral decision to end the mandate of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH) is just an Israeli maneuver, a desire to hide its crimes, and to remove any international control of the place, which would contribute to raising the level of violence and increasing tension in the region."* The Government also welcomed the statement issued by the member states of the International Presence Mission, which called on the international community to compel Israel, the Occupying Power, to rescind its decision and to renew the mandate of the TIPH to provide immediate international protection to the defenseless Palestinian citizens and to take the necessary measures to avoid violence. The Government also appealed to the international community to condemn and hold Israel accountable for its actions as the settler crimes against unarmed, defenseless civilians and terrorizing them in their areas of residence in the West Bank and occupied Jerusalem have risen.

Press here for PMO Spokesperson-recorded Statement

@GovernmentofPalestine

@Palestine.PMO

Twitter

Youtube