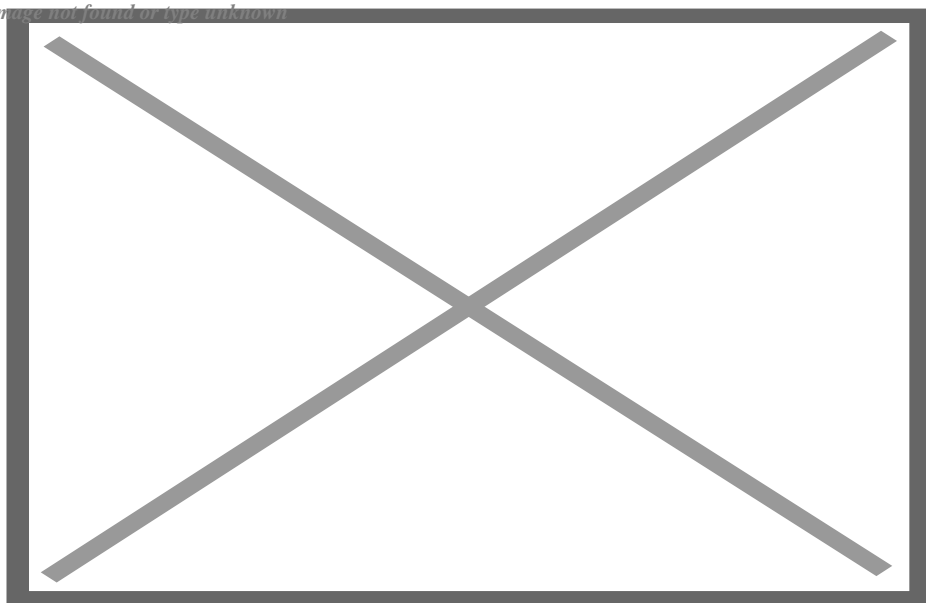


*Statement by the Minister of
Foreign Affairs of the Republic
of Cuba, Bruno Rodríguez
Parrilla, at the quarterly open
debate of the UN Security
Council on The situation in the
Middle East, including the
Palestinian Question*

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Speech by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba, Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, at the quarterly open debate of the UN Security Council on “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question.” New York, October 29, 2024.

Mr. President:

We support the statements of Uganda, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement; of Cameroon, on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation; and of Senegal, in its capacity as President of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

It is inconceivable that, more than a year after it began, the Security Council has not put an end to the genocide being committed against the Palestinian people.

More than 42,000 Palestinians have been massacred, 70% of whom are women and children. More than 2,500 Lebanese have been killed. These numbers are growing rapidly.

Far from an immediate and permanent ceasefire, Israel continues to attack hospitals, schools and refugee camps in the occupied Palestinian territories, in flagrant violation of International Humanitarian Law.

At the same time, it is spreading the conflict in the Middle East region, expanding its aggression to Lebanon, indiscriminately bombing territories in Syria and Yemen and undertaking a new and dangerous escalation against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Israeli government attacks and disdains the UN and its Secretary-General, undermines the security of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and maintains the deadliest attacks in history against UN staff and humanitarian workers in Gaza.

The Occupying Power continues to obstruct humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people. The recent passage by the Israeli Parliament of a law banning all activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territories by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), in violation of the UN Charter and Israel's obligations under international law, will deepen the suffering of the Palestinian population.

How many more children and women must be massacred before the international community acts to end the aggression, end the illegal occupation and provide the international protection that the Palestinian people urgently need?

How much more destruction is needed before, instead of rhetorical speeches of support, practical action is taken against the ongoing genocide?

The impunity with which the Israeli government continues to act not only demonstrates the ineffectiveness of the Security Council, it undermines multilateralism and undermines the very essence of the United Nations Charter and International Law.

It also means that the Palestinian people face an existential threat. It means that more innocent people will continue to be killed, maimed, detained and displaced.

Such impunity is only possible because of the complicit political, military, logistical and financial support provided to the Occupying Power by the United States government, which acts with double standards and prevents the Security Council from acting.

Mr. President:

It is not possible to achieve peace in the Middle East without a just solution to the Palestinian question, which the Israeli government is trying to prevent by all means by destroying the State of Palestine in order to nullify the creation of two States.

A sovereign and independent Palestinian State is not possible without Gaza and the pre-1967 borders, just as it is not possible without East Jerusalem as its capital and without the return of refugees.

The International Court of Justice, at the request of the UN General Assembly, has issued a clear position: Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory and its denial of the right of that people to self-determination are illegal actions that violate international law.

The immediate and unconditional admission of Palestine as a member state of the UN is an essential step towards a definitive solution to the conflict.

Why does Palestine have to continue waiting to become a full member of the United Nations, when Israel did so 75 years ago under a resolution that provided for the creation of two States?

In order to achieve peace and stability in the region, Israel's complete and unconditional withdrawal from the Syrian Golan and all occupied Arab territories is also necessary.

We demand an end to the aggressions against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the sister nations of the Middle East. External interference in that region must cease.

We reiterate the call for an immediate and unconditional end to the arbitrary and illegal unilateral coercive measures imposed by the United States against sovereign countries in the Middle East.

Cuba will continue to contribute with all legitimate international efforts that contribute to a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the conflict in the Middle East.

Joint action by all peoples and governments of the world is urgently needed to stop the aggressions of the Israeli government. Every minute of passivity will cost more innocent lives, more suffering and destruction.

Cuba will never be indifferent to injustice. The Palestinian cause and the sister nations of the region can always count on our firm solidarity and support.

Thank you very much.

(Cubaminrex)

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