

Réunion : Comité pour l'exercice des droits inaliénables du peuple palestinien

Date : Juillet 2013

Durée : 9'07'' (106 mots/minute)

Orateur : Représentant de la Palestine auprès des Nations Unies

Difficulté : \*

Éléments à fournir :

Arab Ministerial Follow-Up Committee	Comité ministériel arabe chargé du suivi de l'Initiative de paix arabe
Organization of Islamic Cooperation	Organisation de la coopération islamique

Thank you Mr Chairman,

I want to begin by expressing our gratitude to you and to the Committee for convening this meeting at this very important moment, and also to thank you for your briefing and all the information that you have provided to us this morning.

I would like also to associate myself with the sentiments that you have expressed to Ambassador Mohammed from Morocco and to congratulate him today on the occasion of their National Day. I am sure that we will be celebrating with him this evening during the reception that they will have to celebrate that important moment.

Let me also thank you and to thank all of our colleagues who have participated last week in that very important debate in the Security Council on The Situation in the Middle East including the Palestinian question, and for all the expressions of support and solidarity with the Palestinian people and their leadership at this moment that we are passing through, which we can characterize as a critical moment and a historical moment.

Of course, during that debate, one can say that we dealt with the details of the situation on the ground in the occupied Palestinian territory, especially with regards to the illegal policies

and practices of Israel the occupying power, as it relates to the continuation of their activities in contradiction with the requirement for providing an appropriate atmosphere to facilitate the opening of doors for a meaningful political process, especially in the area of settlement activities, and you mentioned in your briefing the reference to the number of settlement activities that recently the Israeli occupying authorities have, you know, announced. And we still believe, and I believe that the international community unanimously believes, that Israel has to abide by its obligations and international law and stop all settlement activities in order to allow for the efforts that started last night in Washington DC and continuing this morning, to have a better chance of moving in the right direction.

In addition to that, also that Israel has to go along with the global consensus on the issue of the parameters of the process and the basis of negotiation especially as it relates to the issue of borders, it has to be on the basis of the 4th of June of 1967 accepting the principle of adjusting the borders during the negotiation in which the two parties could mutually agree to such minor adjustment of borders.

Of course, the third element which was, you know, an agreement between us and the Israelis from some time ago, to release the 104 Palestinian political prisoners who have been in prison longer than 20 years, before the Oslo Agreements, and our leadership have expressed positive reaction to the decision of the Israeli Government last Sunday to agree to release those 104 Palestinian political prisoners.

Of course as I said, all these things allowed for one additional step in the right direction of the efforts of everyone including this Committee, the Arab side, the Arab Ministerial Follow-Up Committee, the Quartet, the Non-Aligned Movement, the OIC, all of our friends, the international community, including also the US Administration and specifically Secretary of State Kerry who invested heavily in visiting the region 6 times to allow for this initial meeting to take place yesterday and to continue this morning.

Of course, no one would be more enthusiastic than the Palestinians to see an end to this occupation that started in 1967, and for the State of Palestine to enjoy its independence after the end of occupation than the Palestinian people and the Palestinian leadership. From our

side, we have acted responsibly, we have acted with flexibility, and we have acted even in such a way that although doors have been opened to us after November 29th 2012 to do many things in the international arena, but nevertheless for the sake of peace, for the sake of not giving the Israeli side excuses not to come to the political process, our leadership decided to put for a period of time on hold things that should not be associated with the political process, things that should be decided upon based on the national rights of the Palestinian people and what is in the interest of the Palestinian people, and not to be connected with the political process because these two things are two separate things.

For example, for us to sign and to become a high contracting party to the 4th Geneva Convention, this is a decision that the Palestinian people should make exclusively on the basis of the interest of the Palestinian people. It is a sovereign decision of the Palestinian people, and it is not related to the political process. And for example, joining the Vienna instrument on diplomatic and consular relations is again, this is something that the Palestinian side would decide on it on the basis of the interest of the Palestinian people and it is not related to the political process. And also other things including joining agencies, but nevertheless our leadership, not to give the occupying authority any additional excuse not to come to the table to negotiate and to come with the need of coming to negotiation with good intentions, we have decided for the time being as we have demonstrated since November 29th 2012, you know, to delay joining any of these instruments and agencies because we are looking at the bigger picture, which is peace, ending the occupation, and independence of our State and our nation.

The rest depends on the Israeli side. And of course, not only in terms of exercising our right in this connection but also in terms of whether there will be progress or not in the political process itself.