

*Permanent Observer Mission  
of the State of Palestine  
to the United Nations*



البعثة المراقبة الدائمة  
لدولة فلسطين  
لدى الأمم المتحدة

5 October 2022

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Majed Bamyá, Deputy Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations, before the 77<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly Meeting of the Sixth Committee on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism (Agenda Item 112)**

Mr. Chair,

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you for your election as a Chair of the Sixth Committee and extend our congratulations to the members of the Bureau.

As you steer the course of our work during these challenging times, we are confident that your experience will lead to much needed constructive deliberations and focused outcomes. Be assured, Mr. Chair, of Palestine's full support.

The State of Palestine aligns itself with the statements made by Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Distinguished delegates,

From the depths of our collective fight against terrorism, one of the greatest and ongoing global threats to our peace and security, we reaffirmed our collective responsibility, renewed our unrelenting commitment to the rule of international law, and coordinated a multilateral comprehensive response rooted in the unassailable rights of peoples, the responsibilities of nations, and the principle of humanity.

Indeed, the multilateral system we have built has proven to be the firmest foundation of our sustained fight against terrorism; it has also proven to be the compass of the stability of the international law regime. Undoubtedly, its protection is a collective obligation. Those who call on us to sacrifice the rules of international law in the name of the fight against terrorism undermine both our multilateral order and this fight.

Mr. Chair,

The gravest form of terrorism is the one where an entire nation is denied its right to self-determination, denied its right to security, denied its right to safety, and denied its right to freedom.

Thus, the gravest threat to our global fight against terrorism is the weaponization of counter-terrorism to suppress people's and nations' rights.

Mr. Chair,

Our region is not a stranger to terrorism; and our people are not spared its violence.

In Palestine, alongside the terror imposed by Israeli occupation forces, settler terrorism continues unabatedly, insidiously, and extensively, targeting every Palestinian and instilling terror among women, men, and children.

This terrorism is State-sanctioned; enabled and embraced; supported and facilitated through Israel's entrenchment of its settlement enterprise and the deliberate and willful failure to ensure accountability for these terrorist acts, in violation of international law and United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolution 904 which called on Israel, the occupying Power, to implement measures to prevent settler violence against the protected population, including removing their weapons.

Accordingly, the State of Palestine, and stemming from its obligations and responsibilities towards its people and international law, has recently introduced laws targeting settler organizations, their enablers, financiers, and individuals, who commit or are complicit in acts of terrorism or coercion against the Palestinian people. We call on all States to support and mimic these efforts.

Distinguished delegates,

Counter-terrorism discourse cannot and must not become a counter-rights discourse.

The State of Palestine continues to warn against Israel's long-standing policy of weaponizing of its broad so-called "counter terrorism" strategy, to criminalize, attack, arbitrary arrest and kill Palestinian representatives, civil society and human rights defenders, in violation of international law and its obligations.

Today, Palestinian prisoners have launched a hunger strike against the so-called administrative detention, the worst form of arbitrary detention, and we call on the international community to support their movement and legitimate quest.

We commend the international community for its firm stance against Israel's attacks on the global and Palestinian human rights movement but this noble stance need to be translated into actions to ensure protection of Palestinian civil society and human rights defenders.

We reiterate the important role of civil society in consolidating our counter-terrorism framework and call for their further inclusion. In this regard, we welcomed the UNOCT High-Level International Conference on Human Rights, Civil Society and Counter-Terrorism and call on enhancing such cooperation.

Mr. Chair,

Compliance with the UN Charter, human rights, IHL, refugee law in the fight against terrorism is not optional; it is what distinguishes us from the terrorists and it is intrinsic to the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture.

In this fight, when you have thousands as enemies, it is neither acceptable nor wise to alienate two billion people. Muslims around the world have been victims of terrorism and of the bigots who want to hold them responsible for an ill they themselves suffer from and stand against. Much more needs to be done in these halls to reject such a destructive narrative and policy. We can not accept a world in which bigotry is unacceptable except if it targets Muslims and Islam. Where hatred walks unashamed in the streets, in the media and in the halls of power. Where a group serves as a scapegoat to all the problems, and the lives of its members serve as currency in political campaigns. The fight against terrorism is one in which we either prevail together, in accordance with the rules and principles that have brought us together, or are defeated separately because of those who accept to sacrifice these rules and principles. We choose the former and call on everyone to do the same.

Mr. Chair,

We unequivocally condemn and reject terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, by whomever and against whoever. We stand in solidarity with the victims of terrorism and are committed to their resilience. We thank Iraq and Spain for their leadership of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism in which we remain actively engaged.

The State of Palestine will continue to advance multilateral efforts and robust international cooperation for countering terrorism, including through our cooperation agreements with over 80 states around the world and in fulfilling its obligations therein.

We will also continue to champion an integrated, balanced, and an accountable implementation of all elements of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The State of Palestine reaffirms the need for the finalization of the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and the necessity to uphold the right to self-determination of peoples, a peremptory norm of international law, notably of those fighting for their legitimate rights under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation, as enshrined in the UN Charter.

The Palestinian people and their just cause for freedom remains the pivotal test of the efficacy of this multilateral system and its principles.

Finally, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism framework is about equality and non-discrimination; it is about justice and fairness; it is about self-determination and freedom; it is about the rule of law and the global order. We reiterate that only those who adhere to their obligations under international law can truly call themselves true partners in our fight against terrorism.