



H.E. Duarte Pacheco
President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
 Dear colleges,
Speakers of Parliaments

I address your Excellences on behalf of the elected Palestinian Legislative Council, which represents the free will of the Palestinian people embodied in the ballot box through democratic fair and transparent elections witnessed throughout the world.

I would like to express our thanks to you for convening this important Conference of Speakers of Parliaments to discuss the major issues of concern to our peoples around the world and to promote just issues, enhancing the rules of democracy and human rights.

This Conference is taking place at a critical stage for the just Palestinian cause and in major challenges amid the arbitrary policies of the Israeli occupation and its crimes by Judaizing Jerusalem, stealing the land by settlement and targeting the Palestinian rights in grave violation of all international resolutions and laws.

Ladies and gentlemen, Speakers of Parliaments

I convey to you the message of the Palestinian people who are still suffering from the occupation since 1948. All forms of persecution, racism, oppression and humiliation are practiced against our people, and heinous crimes are committed against them by the Israeli occupation at various levels and fields in front of the eyes and ears of the entire world, which makes the international community bears the responsibility of silence on these actions and continuing crimes.

In Jerusalem, the Israeli occupation continues its systematic judaization campaigns aimed at obliterating its Arab, Islamic and Christian identity, expelling and deporting its inhabitants in the district of Sheikh Jarrah, Al-Bustan and Batn Al-Hawa. It practices daily storming into Al-Aqsa Mosque, demolishes houses and harms the people through continued repressive and arbitrary measures.





In the West Bank, the Israeli occupation continues to steal Palestinian land through rabid settlement campaigns and illegal annexation for land that has reached most of the territory of the West Bank in violation of international and humanitarian resolutions and laws. The occupation does not hesitate to confiscate Palestinian lands, assault them, uproot their trees, and burn their crops.

The Gaza Strip continues to experience the pain and cruelty of the unjust siege imposed on it over 15 years ago, which is a crime against humanity against 2 million Palestinians, and the disastrous effects of the aggression and siege on all aspects of life.

The Gaza Strip is currently experiencing a serious humanitarian situation under Israeli occupation policies. According to the recent report of the United Nations, the World Bank and the European Union, the population of the Gaza Strip is suffering from very poor living conditions as a result of the Israeli blockade. 62% of Gaza's population is suffering from food insecurity, the unemployment rate is about 50%. More than half of the population lives in extreme poverty and 1,500 housing units have been completely destroyed in the recent Israeli aggression, that would lead to a major humanitarian catastrophe, which would require urgent international action to end the siege and suffering from the Gaza Strip.

I would like to remind the world of the cause of some 5,000 Palestinian prisoners, including 41 women, 160 children and 700 patients, suffering injustice, oppression in Israeli prisons, and being subjected to the worst forms of harm, physical and psychological abuse and deliberate medical neglect that led to the death of 226 Palestinian prisoners inside prisons.

In addition, the policy of administrative detention, in which detention is carried out without any trial, is devoted to the repressive policy of depriving prisoners of their minimum human rights, as well as the abduction of deputies of the Palestinian Legislative Council. There are 11 Palestinian MPs are in Israeli prison (Mohamed Abu tiar, Khalida Jarrar, Marwan Barghouti, Ahmed Sadat, Mohamed al Tal, Nizar Ramadan, Khalid Kafisha, Mohamed Badr, Nayef Rajoub and Ahmed Mubarak), that constitutes a violation of international and humanitarian conventions and the fourth Geneva Convention.





As Your Excellences are aware, the issue of the Palestinian refugees of the more than 7 million Palestinian refugees are deprived from return to their homes, towns and villages which they have been forcibly displaced by Israeli Occupation in 1948 and 1967.

We in the presidency of the Palestinian Legislative Council take advantage of the organization and convening of this important conference to put you before your parliamentary, legal, political, moral and humanitarian responsibilities towards the crimes committed against the Palestinian people by the Israeli occupation.

The Palestinian Legislative Council is waiting from the world's Speakers of parliaments to take a serious stand and real positions in various international forums to end the suffering of the Palestinian people under the Israeli occupation and siege. We assure the necessity to confront Israeli crimes, racist policies and plans towards the Judaization of Jerusalem, the continuous assault on Al-Aqsa Mosque, settlements and apartheid in the West Bank, and the siege of the Gaza Strip.

We call upon you to put pressure to release Palestinian prisoners and MPs from Israeli prisons, and to protect the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland. We appeal to oblige the Israeli occupation to cease its continued aggression against the Gaza Strip, rebuild the destructions resulted by the Israeli war machine during the recent aggression against Gaza and to lift the unjust siege that would provide the people of the Gaza Strip with a life of dignity similar to the peoples of the world.

Thank You,

Sincerely,

DR. Ahmad Bahar



**Acting Speaker of the Palestinian
Legislative Council**

