



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM) ON PALESTINIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS, INCLUDING THOSE IN HUNGER STRIKE

1. The Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) expresses its deep concern about the critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In this regard, the Movement expresses particular concern about the plight of more than one thousand Palestinian prisoners who have begun an open-ended hunger strike on 17 April 2017, observed annually as Palestinian Prisoners' Day. The Member States of the Movement express their solidarity with this peaceful, non-violent action, called the "Freedom and Dignity Strike", by the prisoners and detainees in protest of their inhumane treatment by Israel, the occupying Power, and calls for respect of their human rights, in accordance with international humanitarian law and human rights law.
2. The Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reiterates its grave concern that there are more than 6,500 Palestinian civilians, including 53 women and 300 children, currently imprisoned by Israel, among them nearly 700 held in administrative detention without charge. The Movement notes the shocking statistic that these Palestinians are among the more than 800,000 Palestinians, including children, imprisoned by Israel over the fifty years of the occupation that began in 1967. The Member States of the Movement further deplore Israel's continuing campaign of arresting and detaining Palestinian civilians in military raids, on a nearly daily basis, including night raids on civilian homes, and call for the cessation of this practice and for Israel's full respect of its obligations as the occupying Power, in line with international law.
3. The Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reiterates its condemnation of Israel's unlawful and arbitrary detention and imprisonment of Palestinian civilians, including children, women and numerous elected officials, who are being held under harsh, inhumane conditions and being subjected to physical and mental ill-treatment, including reported torture, severe interrogations, intimidation and solitary confinement, and denied access to proper medical care and family visits. The Movement expresses specific concern at the situation of the most vulnerable groups in Israeli detention, including Palestinian women and children as well as ill, disabled and paralyzed Palestinian detainees, and the policy of deliberate medical neglect, from which more than 200 persons have died. The Member States of the Movement also reiterate their call for proper international access to Palestinian prisoners and detainees and the inspection of their conditions, stressing that Israel, the occupying Power, must be held fully accountable for their well-being, including those on hunger strike.



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4. The Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) renews its call on Israel to release the thousands of Palestinian civilians that it is illegally and inhumanely imprisoning and detaining. Moreover, the Movement calls once again upon the international community to act to compel Israel's compliance with international law, specifically with Article 76 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, which clearly defines the rights of protected persons faced with detention by an occupying Power.
5. The Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reaffirms its support for all efforts to address the plight of Palestinian prisoners and detainees, including the "International Campaign for the Freedom of Marwan Barghouti and all Palestinian Prisoners", and reaffirms, in this regard, the Ministerial Declarations on Palestinian Political Prisoners adopted in Bali, in May 2011, as well as in Sharm El Sheikh, in May 2012.

New York, 21 April 2017