

# Palestine Solidarity Alliance

SOUTH AFRICA

PO Box 357, Lenasia, 1820 - Tel. 082 336 6711 - www.palestinesa.co.za - Email: palestinesa@gmail.com



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## **PSA STATEMENT – ‘US STEAL OF THE CENTURY’**

The Palestine Solidarity Alliance condemns the ill devised Middle Eastern plan coined as the ‘Deal of the Century’. This deal has been contrived by the US with apartheid Israel and we categorically state does not include the will, support and participation of the Palestinian people. The entire plan is fraudulent and outrightly rejected by all Palestinian stakeholders.

The deal contravenes international law including important United Nations resolutions regarding the sanctity of Jerusalem.

In part UN Security resolution 2334 reads: *Condemning* all measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, including, *inter alia*, the construction and expansion of settlements, transfer of Israeli settlers, confiscation of land, demolition of homes and displacement of Palestinian civilians, in violation of international humanitarian law and relevant resolutions;

The United Nations has rejected the deal of the century and reiterated that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should be solved based on UN Resolutions and international law.

In the words of Noukat Erakat, Palestinian-American human rights lawyer, *“Palestinians have not been demanding a state. Palestinians have been demanding freedom, dignity, equality. They want the right to belong to their homes, to cultivate their land, to teach their children, to pass on traditions, to speak their language. This is what Palestinians are fighting for, not a plot of land that they can have their flag over and pretend is a state. This is not a game. This is about life and death and freedom.”*

The PSA had previously delivered to the United States Consulate in Sandton, South Africa on 15 May 2018, a detailed legal memorandum concerning the international law position on the holy city of Jerusalem which clearly outlines the process for resolution of the final status of Jerusalem. Any unilateral attempts to circumvent these international resolutions in altering the status of the holy city constitutes constitute a grave violation of the international law process.

The Trump-Netanyahu deal is another criminal step to rob the Palestinians of the shrinking territory they have left. It aims to legitimise Israel’s latest land grab and to hoodwink the international community.

Israel gets the green light to expand its borders by the stroke of a pen as a gift from the American President. Like two corrupt Mafia kingpins the duo connive to sanctify Israel’s conquest of the Golan

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Heights, and incorporation of the illegal West Bank settlements and Jordan Valley through annexation, with Jerusalem as its capital, flouting international law and United Nations resolutions.

The deal further aims to legally indemnify the criminal responsibility borne by the United States in aiding and abetting apartheid Israel in the horrendous wars inflicted in the Gaza strip during the last decade perpetrated by the IDF. This position is completely unacceptable as both these actors of state terror have carefully planned and orchestrated colonial annexation, whilst Israel practises grand apartheid in the occupied Palestinian territories. Effectively, perpetrators of these crimes against humanity would be indemnified from any criminal prosecution whatsoever, without any hope of recourse for justice to victims.

As in 1948 the Palestinians have not been consulted. According to the cynical game of two disgraced politicians facing corruption charges, the Palestinians are told that if they refuse to accept the deal, they will end up with nothing. Trump's son-in-law, Kushner proclaims: If the Palestinians reject this generous offer they show they are the Spoilers, "unfit to have a state of their own."

That statement of colonial racism befits the Zionist intentions at inception, when Theodore Herzl stated that at the creation of a Jewish homeland the "penniless Palestinians" would be driven out of the land reserved by God for his people. Over a century ago that played into the hands of imperialist Britain, France and their ilk. Today, under USA hegemony, such client states as Egypt and the UAE among others sing the treacherous tune, "give the proposals a chance" as they grovel before Trump and Israel. No Palestinian patriot will ever do so. They demonstrate as the world looks on, that they reject this "steal of the century" with the contempt it deserves.

We, South Africans, along with the rest of humanity, stand by our Palestinian brethren. We must advocate to stop this ultimate annexation that would leave the indigenous Palestinian people, without land or rights. The culmination of a brutal colonisation catastrophe (Nakba) of 72 years.

We would have rejected with the same contempt as the Palestinians do any such attempt to deprive us of our land and rights. We struggled using all methods possible, utilising genuine negotiations backed by mass mobilisation and international solidarity in the end, to attain a free and democratic South Africa. We never buckled when the apartheid regime and its supporters attempted to coerce us into accepting their nefarious schemes based on the Bantustan fraud. These schemes aimed to make credible their robbery of our land and to sanctify white supremacy once and for all. It is imperative that our government and people stand with the Palestinians at this critical juncture in history.

We join in solidarity with the Palestinian People and international community, to halt in its tracks the Trump-Zionist fraud. Of one thing we should be sure: the heroic Palestinian People will continue to meet repression with in-dominatable resistance. We can only do what they once did for us. To offer our unstinting solidarity and support through the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions campaign (BDS) led by Palestinian civil society to isolate Apartheid Israel.

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The PSA demands:

- The United States MUST immediately retract this “Deal of the Century” and its unilateral decision in altering the *status quo* to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.
- The United States MUST immediately abide with the United Nations Resolution adopted on 21 December 2017 pertaining to the non - alteration of the status of Jerusalem including UN Resolutions 181 and 303 respectively, noting that the whole of Jerusalem is a final status issue to be resolved through negotiations in line with relevant United Nations resolutions.
- The United States MUST reject any normalisation process that purports to subjugate the will, spirit and aspirations of the Palestinian people’s right to self - determination.
- The United States MUST abide with international law and international humanitarian law and respect fundamental international conventions and instruments which protect, promote and advance the culture of human rights.
- The United States MUST immediately abide with the resolutions by the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to impose boycotts, sanctions and divestments on companies trading in Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian territories contravening the 1967 delineated borders.
- The United States MUST immediately impose an arms embargo and cut off all military aid funding to apartheid Israel that is killing and maiming innocent Palestinians.
- The United States MUST immediately cease its imperial belligerent military campaigns informed by its own misguided foreign policies in the middle east and restrain its military agenda for the attainment of world peace, justice, safety and security.
- The United States MUST respect the right of return for Palestinian refugees as adopted in United Nations Resolution 194.

**Statement Issued by the Palestinian Solidarity Alliance**

**Enquiries:** 1) Attorney Ziyaad Ebrahim Patel - +27 83 309 5238