

GENERAL DELEGATION
OF PALESTINE
THE HAGUE



المفوضية العامة
لفلسطين
لاهاي

Palestine

Statement by
H.E. Dr. Nabil Abuznaid
Ambassador / General Delegation of Palestine to the Kingdom of
the Netherlands

Review conference of the Rome Statute
Of the International Criminal Court
General Debate

Kampala, 1 June 2010

Mr. President
Excellencies
Ladies & Gentlemen

First, let me extend my thanks to H.E. the President, the government, the people of Uganda and the great hospitality.

It is my pleasure to convey to you the greetings from the Palestinian People who always are hopeful when they hear about any gathering addressing peace and justice. And today these hopes are highly renewed at your distinguished conference. Yesterday the Palestinian people were saddened by another Israeli massacre and a new violation of international law, against the international peace activists who were carrying food and medicine to our People in Gaza. The Israeli government, lead by its defense minister Ehud Barak decided to send your conference a message of aggression in killing and injuring many and detaining hundreds of these peace supporters. Israel, for many decades, still continues its systematic policy of killing, expulsion and destruction upon the Palestinian People.

Despite of all the injustices to our People, we still believe in peaceful means to end the Israeli occupation, and without the international community's serious involvement, this occupation will never end.

This occupation took too long and for sixty years our people did not have one single day of justice, regardless of the numerous international resolutions that have been issued, protecting the Palestinian inalienable rights , nevertheless , never implemented.

Mr. President

Palestine lodged a declaration on 12 Jan 2009, to the international Criminal Court recognizing the jurisdiction of the court, pursuant to Article 12 paragraph (3) from the Rome statute to open an investigation for prosecuting the perpetrators of the crimes committed in Palestine since July 2002. Since then, Palestine is cooperating with the Court on regular basis to fulfill the requirements that remain for the completion of the articles of the declaration; in order to put the Israeli Occupation officials to accountability.

Mr. President

First, we would like to reiterate and urge the states parties to work on creating the necessary mechanisms that would guarantee the end of the long lasting impunity of the state of Israel.

We urge the states parties to engage with us towards the International Criminal Court to address and open the investigation. At this situation, two questions related to international justice remain needed to be answered; first, Palestinian victims remain the only victims who seek justice but never manage to attain it due to the conflicting interests of the various international bodies and community.

second; until when would the leaders of Israel and its continuous systematically planned crimes against our people will go by unquestioned and unpunished.

The question from our People to your distinguished conference is "Who can bring justice to them and who will put an end to their suffering?"

The credibility of the international Community, represented in the Assembly of States parties and the international criminal court is ahead of a credibility test that constitutes two main issues , first, how to prove the impartiality of the court versus a process of

politicization? Second the challenges of the inclusion of all categories of victims all over the world into your system of justice and accountability.

Mr. President
Excellencies

I call upon all of you today not to leave the Palestinian People behind; we deserve the justice and freedom you enjoy. I also assure you that Peace and Justice in the World will not be achieved as long as the Palestinian People are denied justice.

Let me conclude by the words of Dr. Martin Luther King

“Injustice anywhere, threatens justice everywhere”

Thank you.