

## “Repercussions of US recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel”

**Attendance (without distinction):** Azzam Al Ahmad, Fahmi Shahin, Nabil Kassis, Ghassan Khatib, Rima Nazzal, Qaddura Fares, Imad Ibrahim, Nader Abu Khader, Anan Al Atira, Hanan Ashrawi, Azmi Shuaibi

**MIFTAH Team:** Lily Feidy, Rula Muzaffar, Riham Faqih, Lamis Shuibi, Mohammed Abed Rabbo, Joharah Baker

### **Introduction:**

US President Donald Trump’s decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, his instructions to move the US embassy to the city, followed by the US veto at the Security Council of a draft resolution opposing the American decision, have all created a new reality on the ground. This resulted in political developments and popular action on Palestinian, Arab and international streets; it also prompted a huge wave of condemnations around the world. The Arab League called for a nullification of the US decision at the Security Council, citing its violation of international resolutions. Furthermore, the UN General Assembly voted on a draft resolution not to recognize Trump’s Jerusalem recognition, coinciding with widespread popular action on the ground, which picked up momentum inside Palestine and abroad. These developments have recast the spotlight on the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

### **General discussion:**

The participants discussed current political developments at the local, regional and international levels in light of Trump’s recent declaration including the repercussions of this decision. They agreed that his declaration disqualified the United States as an honest broker for the peace process, which has reached a dead end because of the Netanyahu government’s measures. This government, they said has already preempted the final status map by escalated settlement building in the Palestinian territories and by the Judiazation of Jerusalem.

The speakers called for drawing inspiration from the experience of Jerusalemites in confronting the occupation during the uprising of last July, saying this experiences proved the people’s power. They maintained that such action requires bridging the gap between the people and faction leaders in order to reach a certain level of compatibility between the political reality and the situation on the street.

In this context, the speakers warned that Israel was creating a new reality on the ground following past Palestinian concessions, concluding that the current negotiating strategy, i.e. based on the Declaration of Principles/the Oslo Accords, was inherently flawed. This is because it included weak points for the Palestinians as opposed to points of strength for Israel. Moreover, the speakers maintained that all of the assumptions made in the past were no longer relevant:

there was no honest broker, no allies and no respect for international law. On the contrary, the recent US position on Jerusalem relayed the message that there was no way to reach a solution because there was no neutral and honest sponsor. This, they maintained, necessitated a change in the relationship with the United States. It also means the Palestinians are in need of a new discourse that rises to the level of the challenges at hand. The attendees also called for devising a political plan and actual steps in coordination with all factions and forces.

The speakers also called for reviving the idea of internationalizing the solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in tandem with unleashing continual and sustainable peaceful, popular resistance.

In this regard, the speakers stressed on the importance of making a change on the internal front through promoting national unity, honoring the participation of Palestinians inside the homeland and abroad, reaffirming the role of the national movement in leading popular action through adopting a new national strategy based on the principle of peaceful, popular resistance, determining a program of resistance for the upcoming stage, promoting the boycott of Israel by means of a political decision, and prompting the government to change its current policy towards supporting the steadfastness of the people.

#### **Recommendations:**

- A call to the Palestinian national movement to adopt a new strategy based on the principle of popular peaceful resistance and peaceful civil disobedience; the PLO will lead this movement and formulate a political program of resistance for the next stage through a comprehensive national strategy.
- It is imperative to restore a sense of Palestinian nationalism and to formulate a program with clear goals, which must be followed up with insistence and determination.
- To develop and adopt a new Palestinian discourse in which all Palestinian parties partake and which rises to the level of the new challenges at hand.
- To bridge the gap between factions and leaders on the one hand and the popular grassroots base on the other.
- To focus on the international direction of the Palestinian cause whereby international law remains the basis of any future Palestinian action.
- To call on the high contracting parties of the Geneva Convention to meet and determine steps to implement the convention and transfer the Palestinian cause to the International Criminal Court, whether at the level of individuals, institutions or the PA.
- To send a clear message to the world, particularly to the Americans, that the era of blackmail and pressure is over.
- To work on holding Israel accountable and on providing protection for the Palestinians; to rectify the internal situation and make a radical and bold change that would reflect a deeper more comprehensive Palestinian understanding of rights.

- To increase investment in the current popular momentum of the struggle to give it more continuance and longevity; to adopt another strategy based on boycotting and resisting Israeli products.
- To adopt a clear position based on a recognized Palestinian state under occupation and to then realize its establishment. This requires a reconsideration of the PA's function in a way that would serve the main goal and which would redistribute burdens on all sectors of the people.
- To take an initiative to demarcate the borders of the Palestinian state in agreement with neighboring countries and with the best use of international criteria and law in the face of the ongoing political attack on these criteria. At the same time, attention must be given to the internal front and a set of principles must be cemented that form a Palestinian framework for a solution to which everyone commits and agrees on its implementation.
- To ensure that internal affairs are not disregarded, most importantly government performance, which has seen a decline in services; to demand from government to change its program of support for citizens and reinforce their steadfastness in line with the needs of these citizens.
- To pay special attention to internal unity and to work towards ending the political division; to respect the participation of all sectors of leaders in critical decisions and not to continue with the trend of one-person decision-making, which negatively impacts on the position of the people.
- To invest in the current political climate to free the Palestinians from a number of obligations and commitments including the Oslo Accords.
- To encourage the people, civil society institutions and the PA to file complaints with the ICC against the Israeli occupation for war crimes.
- To cancel the committee for interaction with Israeli society.