**Discurso del Presidente de la Autoridad Nacional Palestina, Mahmoud Abbas, ante la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, el 27/09/2018**

Madame President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Peace in our region cannot be realized without an independent Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital and with all of its holy sites. There are many people who try to outsmart us. They say that your capital is in East Jerusalem — no, that is a manipulation of words, no — meaning Abu Dis, here or there and the areas surrounding Jerusalem. Our capital is East Jerusalem and not in Jerusalem. No one outsmarts us. Abu Dis and I do not know where — they say. No. East Jerusalem that was occupied in 1967 is our capital.

There is no peace otherwise. There is no peace with a state of temporary borders. They invented the state with temporary borders more than ten years ago — meaning that we will get a state but with unknown borders, like Israel which does not have known borders. And then afterwards, we will talk. No. A state with known borders and rights and we will live in peace beside Israelis. Without that, no. One hundred and thirty-eight countries and another country, Columbia, have recognized us. Now the number has grown to 139 countries. We ask these states. (Pointing at text of speech) I am going to complete my speech here.

I thus call upon all the countries of the world that have not yet recognized the State of Palestine to accelerate this long-overdue recognition. I can no longer see a convincing reason for the continued delay of recognition of the State of Palestine by some countries. In this context, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that, in 2019, the State of Palestine will chair the Group of 77. By the way, ten minutes ago, we met in the other hall of the UN and President el-Sissi (of Egypt) announced that we were elected by 134 countries to lead the 77 group. Despite that, there are countries which say they recognize the two states, they recognize Israel, but do not recognize us. Why? What is the difference? As long as you recognize the State of Israel and the two states, why do you not recognize me? Are you complimenting someone? Are you walking alongside someone? No. We do not accept this logic. We say to these countries: Yes, you must recognize us. That does not mean we will not go to negotiations, but rather it strengthens the international political position for us to go to negotiations with your support. That recognition should not be unilateral because you recognize the two states simultaneously and call for negotiations. What is the difference?

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I must remind you once again that Israel, the occupying power, has not implemented any single resolution of the hundreds of resolutions adopted by the Security Council. There are 705 General Assembly resolutions from 1947 until today and 86 resolutions from the Security Council from 1947 until today and not one resolution has been implemented. Israel has not implemented one resolution. And unfortunately I say in all honesty that Israel has done that with the support of the United States. How long will Israel remain outside the rule of law, fooling around and rebelling as it wants?

Madame President, Distinguished Representatives gathered here in this General Assembly,

We resist this colonial, settler Israeli occupation through the legitimate means created by this international organization. Peaceful, popular resistance. Is it forbidden? We will not use any other means. The settlers hit the Palestinian people with weapons and enter cities and villages with weapons.

We will reject and we reject the use of force and violence. We will reject all types of weapons. We will not accept the use of weapons in any other place. We hope the world will get rid of nuclear and traditional weapons.

Now, there is a problem with Khan al-Ahmar. Israel is insistent on destroying this village. It’s people have been there for more than 50 years. If the village is destroyed, the unity of the West Bank will be destroyed, dividing it between the north and south. Of course, that is what Israel wants. Do you agree to that? That’s what it wants. Also the coming assaults against the Al-Aqsa (mosque). Do you remember the past assaults against Al-Aqsa, which were stopped by popular, peaceful resistance? Now, they came to us and said the Israeli High Court will issue a ruling to divide Al-Aqsa in terms of space and time. Of course, we will not accept that. Many noble, dignified and peace-loving people will also not accept that. Israel must bear the consequences. This thuggery must stop. It is not acceptable that every day there is another decision.

We got a resolution on international protection from you because every day there are assaults and we do not have the ability to protect our people and ourselves. You passed a resolution to protect the Palestinian people. How? Who implements that resolution? Honestly it is also not enough that the General Assembly passes a resolution and then it is not implemented, like all other resolutions. The General Assembly must respect its decisions. I ask you to show us the path to implement this resolution. You must. This is your responsibility.

While we welcome all the economic and humanitarian support to our people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip through the legitimate Palestinian institutions, we refuse that this support be considered a substitute to a political solution. Our issue has many humanitarian elements, but without a political solution, we do not want the humanitarian matters. No one can take advantage of us and tell us they are helping us. We want the right to self-determination. Nothing more or less. There is no people that does not have the right to self-determination. Small and big peoples deserve the right to self-determination, even if it is one person. Why cannot we have this right? We are 13 million people in the world. Why are we not given the right to self-determination. That is not against anyone. Lets build our independent state and live side by side with Israel. What is wrong with that? Where is the mistake in that? Where is the crime in that?

We continue to exert genuine, serious efforts to end the division and to achieve reconciliation. Despite the many obstacles to achieving these aims, we continue to uphold our responsibilities towards our people.

We express our appreciation to our Arab brethren, in particular the fraternal Arab Republic of Egypt, for the efforts being undertaken to end this division, hoping that they will be successful.

Under Egypt’s patronage, we made a deal on October 12, 2017. The agreement is simple: The Palestinian government assumes its responsibilities in Gaza as it has in the West Bank. Then we build our state on the basis of one law, one authority, one system and one legitimate weapon. We do not accept a state of militias. They (Hamas) did not agree to implement it. Until now, we have not received their approval of that.

In the next few days, the last round of dialogue will be held. After that, we will have another matter.

I would like to state the following: The Palestinian people who are a total of 13 million people — some do not see us as people. Why have we become a redundant people that should be done away with? We will not accept that. We will not tolerate it at all. And despite that, we are patient, and steadfast and believe in peace and the peaceful ways. But look at us like we are people and not a redundant people.

There are also agreements with the US administration, but why have they reneged on all of them? If they do not stop reneging on them, we will not remain committed to the parts that relate to us. If they do not commit to them, we will not commit to them. An agreement between two sides should be respected by both sides. I respect it from A to Z. If he does not respect it, I will not respect or commit to it.

I also add that the United States of America is considered a mediator. But now our view of the United States is that it does not have the right to be a mediator on its own. We have the Quartet. Add to that any country in Europe, Africa, Asia, America or the Arab world, if they would like. Welcome. As for America on its own. We no longer will tolerate is mediation because it is biased toward Israel.

We have also concluded agreements with Israel and they have abrogated all of them. We call on Israel to stop abrogating these agreements or we will not abide by these agreements at all.

There is also an agreement between Hamas and us. We abided by it and our Egyptian brothers know that, but they have not abided by it. Therefore, from now on, we will not bear any responsibility. I ask you to understand what I am saying. We will not bear any responsibility if they insist on rejecting agreements.

Despite all that, we will not turn to violence or terrorism and we will continue to fight violence and terrorism in every place in the world. We will not accept any aggression against any state that recognizes us or not or loves us or not. We will not accept that it be attacked by international terror.

A very important point. The American administration said the number of refugees is only 40,000. O brother, how have you calculated 40,000? Ask UNRWA. Of course, they now do not want UNRWA. They want to get rid of it so that the refugee issues will end forever. The agency was established in 1949 to help refugees until their issue ends. Until now, their issue has not ended. From the 13 million of our people, 6 million are refugees. Not 40,000 as they say in the American administration. They are also abrogating facts. They calculate and decide to abrogate the agency and the world will listen to it. No. That will not happen.

Finally, I call on my people to remain steadfast and patient and to continue to make sacrifices in order to achieve independence, self-determination and a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

I pay tribute to our honorable martyrs and courageous prisoners. Israel considers them criminals. Why? It has thousands of people who have attacked everyone? They are heroes. Why is Rabin’s killer considered a hero and we, our group, is considered criminals who should not be paid? I salute our heroic martyrs and heroic prisoners.

I say to everyone that soon the dawn of freedom and independence will shine and occupation will go into the darkness of history.