



Statement

by

**Ms. Caroline Ziadé
Chargé d’Affaires, a.i.**

**at the
Security Council**

**“The situation in the Middle East,
Including the Palestinian question”**

Friday, January 26, 2016

Check Against Delivery

*Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 531, New York, NY 10017*

Mr. President,

Allow me to start by congratulating your delegation and the delegations of Egypt, Japan, Senegal and Ukraine for the beginning of their tenure as elected members in the Security Council. I would also like to commend your leadership during your presidency of the Council, and the excellent job done by the five outgoing delegations of Chad, Chile, Jordan, Lithuania and Nigeria. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for his briefing.

Mr. President,

By the end of 2015, while the world celebrated milestones resulting in the culmination of certain efforts of international political will, from Sendai, to New York, and from Addis Ababa to Paris, the Middle East continued to struggle with yet another somber and traumatizing year haunted by Israeli occupation, terrorism, conflicts, violence and violations of Human rights. Indeed, the absence of collective political will is turning the land of faith and hope into the land of hatred and sorrow.

Mr. President,

In my country, the year 2015 ended with 1168 Israeli violations of Lebanon's sovereignty by land, air and sea. There are facts. Any unfounded accusations or attempts to blaming Lebanese parties must not change them. Hard facts remain hard facts. A simple calculation proves that Israel commits an average of 3.2 violations against my country per day. All these violations have been communicated to you and circulated as official documents of the United Nations, and they illustrate the systematic disregard by Israel of our collective will in advancing the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701(2006).

Last January 28, 2015, the escalation along the blue line resulted in the killing of a Spanish soldier by Israel, and on January 4, 2016, Israel bombarded 6 Lebanese villages for one hour. These are just few examples of unilateral actions practiced by Israel, which undermine the work of UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces, threaten their security and jeopardize efforts to maintain stability in the region. It is alarming that Israel not only refuses to abide by its obligations under resolution 1701, it continues to take unilateral and provocative actions in a blatant disrespect to the tripartite mechanism established by UNIFIL.

Despite the complex political situation, my Government reaffirmed time and again its unwavering support to the implementation of resolution 1701 in its entirety. It also renewed its determination to keep combating terrorism, and addressing the social, economic and security impacts of the continued flux of refugees from Syria.

Mr. President,

We clearly stated that the exodus of despair of the Syrian refugees should summon in all of us our shared values of humanity and the will to put on track a serious political process to end this protracted conflict.

In this regard, Lebanon acknowledges the adoption of Security Council Resolution 2254 and also looks forward to the upcoming donor conference in London next month.

This meeting should be an opportunity to reinvigorate international efforts to share responsibilities towards those refugees, alleviate their suffering and the burden on their host communities.

Mr. President,

What could be told about the situation in the occupied territories of the State of Palestine in 2015?

The Israeli reign of terror continues unabated. OCHA recorded the highest number of casualties last October with 51 killed and 7027 injured Palestinians. Israeli authorities have been detaining more than 8000 children since 2000, and prosecuting more than 700 children per year. Yes- this means that the last two generations of Palestinian youth do not know anything other than administrative detention and Israeli might. They deserve better choices. How many Palestinian Generations should suffer from illegal Israeli practices amounting in many cases to extrajudicial execution, for you to act? For how long will your august body remain silent while the auto-proclaimed so-called "only democracy" in the Middle East continues the demolition of houses, seizure of Palestinian land the latest being 370 acres in the West Bank, intensification of settlement activities, and isolation measures segregating people in East Jerusalem denying them the exercise of their fundamental and inalienable rights? All of this in a clear and undeniable endeavor to render the two state solution an unattainable objective.

The unraveling of this tragedy in the occupied State of Palestine requires an immediate action by the international Community to provide international protection to the Palestinian people. This same tragedy should exert in you the political will to establish a new credible and comprehensive framework for negotiations to be conducted in a defined timeframe and based on the well known parameters set by relevant UN resolutions-in particular all Security Council resolutions and General Assembly resolutions 181 and 194, the Madrid principles and the Arab Peace initiative.

Mr. President,

Let us make 2016 the year of achievements and the fulfillment of hope and aspirations. Let us demonstrate to the peoples of the Middle East that they are neither forgotten nor left alone.

Thank you Mr. President.