



Indian Council of World Affairs
Sapru House, Barakhamba Road
New Delhi

December 5, 2013

Press Release

on

**Annual Commemoration of the
“International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People”**

(29 November 2013)

India continues to support the Palestinian cause and a negotiated solution resulting in a sovereign, viable and united state of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, and living peacefully side by side with the state of Israel, said the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E. Ahamed, in his Keynote Address on the occasion of the “International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People”, organised by the Indian Council of World Affairs on 29 November 2013, at Sapru House.

In his remarks, Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia, Director General, ICWA, pointed out that the region is “passing through complex phase of developments” and called for “crafting and promoting consensus within people, states, the region, and among the major international players who have a direct stake in West Asia”, for peaceful settlement of the Israeli – Palestinian issue. The DG also stated that West Asia has been a region of immense interest to ICWA and it is contributing to greater awareness of the region by holding conferences and roundtables from time to time.



Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia, DG, ICWA, speaking on the occasion

The State of Palestine was represented by its Ambassador to India, Adli Shaban Hassan Sadeq, who appreciated the consistent support provided by India to the Palestinian

people. The Palestinian Ambassador also thanked ICWA for organising the event. He added that the groupings of emerging economies, such as BRICS and IBSA can contribute more to the cause of Palestine. While talking about the prospects of resolving the conflict, he criticised the settlement activities by Israel in the occupied territories and said that the Israeli policies are obstacles for Israel itself are creating obstacles for an early resolution of the conflict.



H.E. Mr. Adli Shaban Hassan Sadeq, Ambassador of the State of Palestine, delivering the speech

Dr. Mazin Al-Masoudi, In-charge of the League of Arab States Mission, Delhi, reiterated the League's support to the two-state solution for the Israeli-Palestinian issue and criticised the settlement activities being carried out by Israel in the occupied territories.

Dr. Peter E. Kenmore, the FAO representative, read out the message of the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the occasion. In his message, the Secretary-General, underlining the significance of this year's Solidarity Day, pointed out that the negotiators of the resumed direct peace talk have agreed to work towards "a peaceful, comprehensive settlement on all permanent status issues". While urging all parties to support this ambitious endeavour to fulfil the two-State solution, he expressed concern at the difficult situation on the ground and Israel's continued settlements in the occupied territories as a potentially destabilising force to the two-state solution, and the resultant collapse of negotiations.

The event was attended by the Diplomatic Corps, former Indian Ambassadors and the academic community.
