

## **Solidarity with Palestinian People**

- I have come here with my colleagues of the Embassy to show our solidarity with brothers and sisters of Palestine.
- I thank Ambassador Fariz Mehdawi for giving us this opportunity.
- Support for the Palestinian cause has been a defining principle of Pakistan's foreign policy since Pakistan's inception. Our founding father, Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, was unrelenting in upholding the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. And so did the successive generations of our leaders and people.
- Cause of Palestine is very close to the hearts of the Muslim Ummah around the world. Being home to the first Qibla of the Muslims Al-Quds around the world and historical significance, there is also a spiritual and emotional attachment to it.
- We have recently noted some statements of the world leaders expressing their disappointment. Only disappointments! What is happening in Palestine is barbaric; it's shocking; it's illegal; against international law; against UN Security Council resolutions. What is happening there constitutes war crime; crimes against humanity and state terrorism. It needs to be condemned in the strongest possible terms.
- Pakistan strongly condemn the air strikes in and outside Al-Quds and Gaza by the Israeli forces which has resulted in the deaths and injuries of hundreds and thousands of innocent Palestinian, including women and children. Our National Assembly has passed a resolution condemning these attacks.
- Pakistan has strongly condemned the air strikes in and outside Al-Aqsa Mosque and Gaza that have resulted in death of over 222 and injuries to over a thousand innocent Palestinians including women and children.
- Parliament of Pakistan also issued a unanimous resolution condemning the violence and the killings.
- After the recent attacks, Pakistan initiated an intense diplomatic campaign to muster international support for Palestinian cause.
- Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed strong solidarity with Palestine and condemned the use of brutal force by Israeli forces against the defenceless Palestinians in Gaza. He also participated in the trending Twitter campaign #We Stand with Palestine and #We Stand with Gaza.

- “I am PM of Pakistan and #We Stand with Gaza, #We Stand with Palestine,” he wrote in his tweet. Imran Khan also shared an excerpt of the article written by Noam Chomsky, an American philosopher and historian, where he had mentioned an old man in Gaza holding a placard that read: “You take my water, burn my olive trees, destroy my house, take my job, steal my land, imprison my father, kill my mother, bombard my country, starve us all, humiliate us all but I am to blame: I shot a rocket back.”
- Foreign Minister Qureshi exchanged views with his counterparts from Sudan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Egypt, Afghanistan and China. He also discussed the evolving situation with Palestinian Ambassador to Pakistan.
- In his statement made at Virtual Open-ended Emergency Meeting of the OIC Executive Committee to Discuss Israel’s Aggression against Palestine, our FM reaffirmed unflinching solidarity with the government and people of Palestine and called for immediate action on the following:
  - One, the international community must protect the Palestinians against the blatant and illegal use of force and flagrant violations of human rights by Israeli forces.
  - Two, implementing forthwith resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council, UN General Assembly and the UN Human Rights Council is both critical and urgent.
  - Three, Israel should be punished for violation of international law, including the Fourth Geneva and the other various human rights Conventions.
  - Four, attempts to create a false equivalence between Israel, the aggressor, and Palestinians, the victims, are inexcusable and as the collective voice of the Muslim Ummah the OIC should work in unity to dispel this deliberately deceptive perception.
- On Prime Minister Imran Khan’s directive, FM travelled to Turkey where he called on President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and his counterpart on the Palestinian issue. From there, the Foreign Minister left for New York along with Turkish, Sudanese and Palestinian foreign ministers.
- In New York, FM Qureshi will speak at the UNGA session, meet various dignitaries and hold talks with local and international media representatives and present Pakistan’s views on the situation in Palestine.
- Pakistan is observing Youm-e-Palestine (Palestine Day) on Friday (May 21) to denounce Israeli atrocities and express solidarity with Palestinian people.
- Palestine and Jammu and Kashmir issues remain the two outstanding issues which are still waiting to be resolved according to the aspirations of the people. The untold human sufferings which they are facing due to the

occupying forces is a blot on the conscious of the international community. The numerous UN Security Council resolutions calling for just resolutions of these disputes are still waiting to be implemented.

- We are grateful to the Government of China for its support to our principled positions on Palestine and Jammu and Kashmir and for raising these issues at the UN Security Council the special meetings.
- China, as a President of UNSC this month, organized two special meetings which were chaired by the State Councilor Wang Yi in which he not only condemned the violence against Palestinian civilians but also called on the international community to play its role in resolving this issue. The four-point agenda mentioned by Chinese Foreign Minister is very important and need to be implemented by the international community.
- Both China and Pakistan maintain the establishment of a viable, independent and contiguous State of Palestine, on the basis of internationally agreed parameters, the pre-1967 borders, and with East Jerusalem as its capital, is the only sustainable guarantee for peace in the region.