

**Statement by the Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana
on the Occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the Nakba**

Seventy-five years ago today, marked the beginning of the **Nakba**, the displacement and dispossession of Palestinian Arabs from what had become their homeland over centuries.

The Palestinian people have since traversed a long and arduous road, as refugees and as a people under occupation, in an enduring struggle for peace with dignity, and for the full exercise of their inalienable rights. Thousands of men, women, and children, have paid the ultimate price in that noble struggle, compounding the multiple traumas – displacement, dispossession, denial, and occupation – visited upon the Palestinian people for the greater part of the last century.

The Palestinian people continue to face this injustice despite the many unequivocal pronouncements of the international community. The United Nations, including the Security Council and the General Assembly, have spoken against the continued violation of the right of the Palestinian people to a dignified existence, free from fear and violence, and secure in their homeland. Every moment that they are forced to endure these gruesome realities is a moment too long and an indictment against those who contribute to the perpetuation thereof.

The Guyanese people have stood and will continue to stand firmly with their Palestinian brothers and sisters in their quest for freedom and self-determination. We recognise that the Palestinian people are at risk of being left behind if they are hindered from charting their own path toward a future of peace and stability. Peace and stability provide the best conditions for the achievement of sustainable development and occupation is inimical to this goal.

The Government of Guyana, therefore, calls on the international community to accelerate efforts to secure a comprehensive, just, and peaceful solution to the question of Palestine. We call on the concerned parties to desist from action that is contrary to the United Nations Charter and international law. We call for respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of the Palestinian people, including their right to return to their country, their right to a standard of living adequate for their health and wellbeing, and their right to live in peace and security within secure and settled borders. We also call for a return to a dialogue aimed at arriving at a full and final settlement of all pending issues, with the ultimate objective of two independent States, Israel, and Palestine, living side by side in peace.

The Government of Guyana remains irrevocably committed to these objectives and stands in full solidarity with the Palestinian people in their just struggle for freedom and peace.

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Georgetown
15 May 2023**