

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people- 29 November 2013

Jerusalem, 25 November 2013

Dear friends and partners,

It has been 65 years since the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 181, but till today the conflict continues in the absence of a permanent resolution on the ground.

I am afraid that the two state- solution is almost dead and all these negotiations are a big illusion and waste of time. Unfortunately, road blocks, checkpoints, settlement expansions and violence, the separation wall, lack of access to farmlands and to Jerusalem and the Holy places and humiliation are part of our daily life.

The situation is worse in the Gaza Strip where the siege is more severe and the repercussions fatal.

We, at Caritas Jerusalem are witnesses to the disastrous consequences of life under these unjust, unfair treatments day in and day out.

We see its harmful effects on the people in general and the youth in particular. We want our youth to have a better tomorrow and a brighter future. We want them to have a peaceful life where they can develop their skills, their education and their energy for the benefit of their country and for the next generations to come.

Nevertheless, we believe that there are no military solutions to this conflict and there is no force that can control the will of a nation asking for its freedom and there are no people in the world who would accept to live under occupation forever.

Therefore, this occupation should come to its end as soon as possible, once and for ever not only for the benefit of the Palestinian people but also for the future of Israel and the Israeli people.

When calm, tranquillity and peace reign in this region, we will have peace in Jerusalem, peace in the Holy Land and peace on earth. Thus, the Holy Land will become the paradise of the whole world. In fact, peace is the best gift and blessing the world and the Lord might give to this Holy Land.

We at Caritas Jerusalem believe that these issues can only be solved through direct negotiations; failing to overcome mistrust will only condemn further generations of Palestinians and Israelis to more conflicts and further sufferings.

Let us, on this International Day, reaffirm our commitment to translating solidarity into positive action.

On this day of Solidarity, we wish no less than justice, peace and the recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people; a real reconciliation between the two people and three religions living in the Holy land.

Thank you for your prayers, your solidarity and support in seeking justice for the Palestinian people.

Sincerely,

Fr. Raed Abusahlia
General Director
Caritas Jerusalem