IN THE NAME OF GOD

International Solidarity Day with the Palestinian People

Palestine in the reflection of artists dreams
November 29th, International Solidarity Day with the Palestinian People

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International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

In 1977, the UN General Assembly called for the annual observance of 29 November as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, (resolution 32/40 B). On that day, in 1947, the Assembly adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine (resolution 181 (II)). The resolution on the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People encourages Member States to continue to give the widest support and publicity to the observance of the Day of Solidarity.
People of the world annually celebrate November 29th in honor of the dignity of the Palestinian people. More than 60 years has passed since the occupation of Palestine, but it does not seem that there is an end to the suffering of the Palestinian people, and the continuation of this oppression and inhumanity will continue to upset mankind.

On 29 November 1947, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 181 as a plan for Palestine partition. According to this resolution, Palestine was divided into an Arab State and a Jewish State.

The Resolution divided Palestine irrespective of its historical background and half of the Palestinian land was given to Zionists; however, in May 1948, the Zionists prevented the formation of an independent Palestinian state by occupying this country. In this regard, in 1977, the UN General Assembly called for the annual observance of 29 November as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

Today, we are witnessing the oppression resulting from the general assembly’s Resolution on Partition of Palestine. After 60 years, the Palestinian people are deprived from their fundamental rights. Thousands of Palestinians are still living in Gaza and the West Bank. Millions of Palestinians are living in camps in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. The growing rate of the construction of Israeli settlements in West Bank and Jerusalem will make the Palestinians homeless and force them to immigrate. Gaza is the scene of the war between the Palestinians and oppressors, and people of the world have turned their backs on this conflict. It is more than two years that blockade of Gaza strip is imposed by Israel and Palestinian people are suffering from poverty, hunger and illness.

Gaza’s conditions bears witness to the oppressions imposed on Palestinian People, and United Nations, which has been involved in this oppression, is silent against the humanitarian disaster in the Gaza Strip.

On 29 November 2018, the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO commemorated the International Day of Solidarity with the People of Palestine, jointly with the Academy of Arts of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Iranian Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

The meeting hosted prominent governmental personalities, ambassadors of Islamic missions to Iran, the representative of UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office, and personalities of cultural and artistic prominence.

The meeting began with a briefing on the objective of the commemoration as well as explanations on the inauguration of the Palestinian art exhibition. In the opening ceremony of this cultural event, Dr. Hojatollah Ayoubi, Secretary-General of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, Dr. Aliraza Esmali, Head of the Academy of Arts and Mr. Ahmad Mazani, head of the Iranian Parliament Committee on Culture, Abbas Khamehyan, deputy for International Affairs of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization and Salah Zawawi, Palestinian Ambassador in Iran, delivered their speech.
Dr. Hojatollah Ayoubi, Secretary-General of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO:

Art is the most effective tool to reach peace and to support the Palestinian people

Dr. Hojatollah Ayoubi, Secretary-General of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, expressed his gratitude to the participants and explained the precedence of the International Day of Solidarity with the People of Palestine, proclaimed as such by the United Nations in 1977. He continued by referring to the atrocities taken place in the world in the 21st century and the reason of the establishment of UNESCO.

He said: «Unfortunately, all the crimes and brutalities are caused by lack of intelligence which has disturbed the peace in the today's world, and we are witnessing terrible events in different parts of the world.»
Ayoubi continued: “war begins in the mind and heart of human beings. This idea has been the basis on which UNESCO has been established after World War II in 1947 (the Preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO declares that “since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed.”) Secretary-General of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO referred to the development of wisdom and intelligence, as the useful tool to resist against war and to achieve peace. He said: “the idea that war begins in the mind, has been clearly expressed in our Qur’an, Hadith and literature. The language of art is definitely the most useful tool in the transformation of thought and anti-war thinking. Today, Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, in cooperation with the Academy of the Arts, Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Institute of Development of Contemporary Visual Arts, World Peace Forum and the Society for the Defense of Palestinian Nation, commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People through organizing the exhibition of Palestine in the reflection of artists’ dreams.”

Dr. Ayoubi pointed out that the language of art can help humans reach peace and said: “Fortunately, in Iran, we have created artworks, films and documentaries in the area of resistance, in particular for the Palestinian people, and Iranian filmmakers have produced great works in the area of resistance. Today, we are going to appreciate some of the artists of resistance area.”

He said: “art is inspired by colors and color is incompatible with war, because a person, who is involved in art, can never participate in war. An artist embraces colors, respects all the ethnicities irrespective of race and culture and defends his homeland in conflicts and danger.”

Dr. Ayoubi referred to Dr. Shahriari, Iranian nuclear scientist, who was martyred on 29 November 2010 and said: “such hatreds and brutal assassinations originate from evil spirits. My colleagues and I at the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, do our best to annually organize a proper event to support the Palestinian people.” In the end, he thanked Dr. Bahman Namvar Motlagh, Assistant Secretary-General for research and head of the Culture Department of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, for his priceless efforts in organizing the event.
Dr. Alireza Esmaili, head of the Academy of Arts welcomed the invitees and said: «this day reminds us of the responsibility of the international community to Palestinian people and Quds. Fortunately, in Iran, people are motivated by the statement of Imam Khomeini, who said «Palestine is a part of the Islam», as well as by the statement of Supreme Leader of Iran, who said: «today, Palestine is the priority of the Islamic world».
Dr. Esmaili continued: «Iranian People have always supported Palestinian people and their ideals. Defending Palestinian people and condemning the occupation of Palestine are among the priorities of the Iranian Revolution. The Academy of Arts has held several photo, poster and caricature exhibitions and has organized many programs in the field of resistance art to support Palestinian nation. But in the early 1380s, the Academy bought a valuable collection of the Palestinian painters by the assistance of the Supreme Leader’s office. This collection includes 100 artworks, indicating the cultural and art symbols of Palestine. Most of the artworks have been created by the artists who were kept in camps in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. These works reflect the oppression of Palestinians and their call for justice.»
This collection was unveiled in the exhibition for the first time.

Head of the Academy of Arts:
Art is the best tool to reflect the resistance and innocence of the Palestinian people
Ahmad Mazani, head of the Iranian Parliament Committee on Culture:
Less has been done to reflect the Iranian culture to the world

In the opening ceremony of the exhibition, Ahmad Mazani, head of the Iranian Parliament Committee on Culture, said: «UNESCO, as a cultural institution, should be a pioneer in celebrating the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people. It is a day to defend innocence in the world»
He referred to the formation of a committee on cultural diplomacy in the Iranian Parliament and said: «today, our thoughts are influenced and shaped by soft power and we need soft diplomacy to deal with it. Less has been done to reflect the Iranian culture to the world. Instead of applying our capacities, we have implemented parallel and paradoxical activities; however, we need a coherent cultural diplomacy to show the reality of Iran and the Islamic system. Unfortunately, Iran, as a victim of terrorism, is known as supporter of terrorism and is subjected to the cruel suppression of the real supporters of terrorism, and the West has allocated a significant budget to make the problems worse in Iran.»
Head of the Iranian Parliament Committee on Culture continued: «More than being influenced by economic problems, we are affected by psychological warfare and art diplomacy is the only effective strategy in this cruel war.»
He referred to the coincidence of 29 November with the the day of the martyrdom of Dr. Majid Shahriari, victim of terrorism, and said: «in all the cities of Iran, there have been persons martyred by terrorist attack.»
He commended the activity of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO to commemorate this important day that not only highlights the importance of supporting Palestine, but also strengthens the cultural diplomacy of the Country. «Cultural diplomacy and/or artistic diplomacy can well change the global imagery of the IR of Iran», said the speaker. «Our defense and support of the peoples of Palestine and Yemen was solely of a spiritual nature and non other. I truly believe in the need to promote the cultural diplomacy of Iran in foreign countries», continued the speaker.
He added: «the cost allocated to Palestine is, in fact, a kind of investment for the Islamic Republic of Iran; because we and people of Palestine are brothers, as a soul in two homelands.»
In the end, head of the Iranian Parliament Committee on Culture, said: «we are ashamed that we had not done anything for Palestinian people. Our message to Palestine is that the Iranian people, the government and the Islamic Consultative Assembly support you.»
Dr. Abbass Khameyar, Deputy for International Affairs of Islamic Culture and Relations Organizations,

The Palestine-Israel conflict goes beyond religions and ethnicities

Dr. Abbass Khameyar, Deputy for International Affairs of Islamic Culture and Relations Organizations, said: «We know that the budget we spent on supporting Palestine is only a small amount in comparison to the huge costs spent on making the Palestine conflict less important. Everyone should know that this small amount fosters our security. Today, the Palestinian people are worthy of this appreciation. These oppressed people are strongly attacked and rejected by the Arabic nations, while they are resisting against the political, military and economic pressures.»

He added: «today, a scenario called the «deal of century» is being implemented by some Arab countries, but the Palestinian people have stand against this dangerous scenario. This resistance led to the collapse of the Zionist regime cabinet in the last week.»

Deputy for International Affairs of Islamic Culture and Relations Organizations continued: «The former Zionist authorities admitted that they defeated three Arab countries during a six-day war in 1967, but today, an armed group has defeated them. We know that Palestine conflict is, in fact, a transnational issue. Palestine is known all over the world. When Ahed al-Tamimi was released, the great West sport Clubs donated their clothing to this hero. (She is considered as a symbol of resistance against Israeli occupation in the West Bank and a courageous advocate for Palestinian independence). Al-Tamimi indicates the victory of Palestinian nation.»

Dr. Abbass Khameyar referred to the Great March of Return and said: «this march reveals a human message and indicates that Zionist regime is globally condemned. The protesters demand that Palestinian refugees and their descendants be allowed to return to the land they were displaced from.»

In the end, he said: "Palestinian incendiary kites have disrupted the iron dome of Israel."
His Excellency Salah Zawawi, the Palestinian ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran:

When the Arab nations had turned their back on Palestine, Imam Khomeini revived the Palestine conflict

The Palestinian ambassador, Salah Zawawi, was the final speaker of the ceremony. At the beginning, he thanked the officials of the Academy of Arts and the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO for organizing the ceremony and thanked the Algerian ambassador for his presence at the ceremony and said: “Algeria, alongside Iran, is one of the revolutionary countries that have always supported Palestine. The ambassador said: “In early days of the Islamic revolution in Tehran, the Israel embassy was replaced with Palestine embassy, and when the Arab nations had turned their back on Palestine, Imam Khomeini revived the Palestine conflict, which was a key action on that time.”

The ambassador referred to the growing movement of Palestinians in fighting against the plot of Israeli and said: “we condemn the Arab states’ involvement in the American plot for isolating Iran. This is a disgrace for the Arab nation to consider Israel as its friend, and Iran as its enemy.”
Members of the policy-making council:

- Ahmad Mazani
  Head of the Iranian Parliament Committee on Culture

- Dr. Alireza Esmaili
  Head of the Academy of the Arts

- Dr. Hojatollah Ayoubi
  Secretary-General of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO

- Dr. Mansour Gholami
  Minister of Science, Research and Technology

- Dr. Abbass Khameyar
  Deputy for International Culture and Relations Organization

- Dr. Alireza Esmaili
  Assistant Secretary-General for Research at the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO

- Dr. Abbass Khameyar
  Deputy for International Affairs of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization

- Salah Zawawi
  The Palestinian Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran

- Dr. Bahman Namvar-Motlagh
  The Palestinian Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran

Celebrating Artists in the Palestinian Territory

Following the speech of the Ambassador, the floor was given to high-ranking officials to commend the activities of artists, working in the field of resistance filmmaking. The producer of the late Saifollah Daad’s movie, “The Survivor” and the Best woman actress of the movie, Ms Salma Al-Masri were given awards of acknowledgement. A third award went to Mr Morteza Shabani, documentary filmmaker of Iran. Ms Mahboobeh Palangi, Dr Safataj, and Dr Habib Sadeghi were also awarded certificates for their efforts.

The meeting ended with a visit of the art gallery, showcasing paintings by Palestinian artists. The exhibition remained open until 13 December 2018.
Exhibition of the works of the Palestinian artists

On the sidelines of the ceremony, an exhibition showcasing the artworks of the Palestinian artists was held. The Academy of Arts has purchased these artworks with the aim of developing resistance art. Art is one of the practical tools that can carry the message of cultures and reflects the thoughts of nations in a way that is free from violence.