



## **CCPRJ welcomes UN Security Council Resolution 2334 (2016)**

The Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem welcomes Resolution 2334 (2016) by the UN Security Council condemning Israel's construction and expansion of settlements in Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem. We have long called on the international community to hold Israel, as the Occupying Power, accountable for its violations of international law. Lack of action by the international community and third state parties in general, especially considering the absence of any Security Council resolution on the Middle East since 2008, has encouraged Israel to continue these violations without any risk of imposed sanctions or the use of other mechanisms that could have ended the nearly fifty years of occupation.

The resolution comes at a time when Israel's efforts to expand its colonization are intensified by the plan to legalize outposts that are considered illegal under Israeli law. Resolution 2334 expresses the international community's increasing concerns over Israel's ongoing violations of international law.

Resolution 2334 unfortunately does not add anything new to the ten previous resolutions adopted.<sup>1</sup> The call to halt settlement activities is not as strongly worded as the call to dismantle settlements which was put forward in resolution 465 (1980). Nonetheless, we hope that resolution 2334 will end the passive stance of the international community and the lack of action against Israel's continued violations of Palestinian human rights.

The absence of an enforcement mechanism, renders any effect Resolution 2334 may have fully dependent on the political will of the international community. Israel has ignored all previous resolutions, the 2004 ICJ advisory opinion, and the Goldstone report, among others. Time and again it has expressed strong language against the UN and its alleged bias towards Israel. Israel has now summoned all ambassadors and cut diplomatic ties with states that voted in favour of the resolution. This arrogant behaviour should not deter other countries from fulfilling their third state responsibility under international law.

As mentioned by the representative of the State of Palestine during the Security Council meeting, the resolution requires vigilant follow-up if it is going to be meaningful and if we want to make sure it will salvage the two-State solution from relegation to history's archives. Resolution 2334 stresses the need to create conditions for successful final status negotiations. It should therefore constitute the basis for action by various international mechanisms, strongly motivated by the 14 votes in favour of the resolution and the one abstention by the US, and followed by a statement of the US Secretary of State John Kerry, saying that the US was obliged to allow passage of the UN resolution in order to preserve the possibility of peace.

Lastly, it is of the utmost importance for businesses and states involved directly or indirectly in supporting the construction of settlements to assume responsibility and to be held accountable.

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<sup>1</sup> UN Security Council Resolutions: 242 (1947), 338 (1973), 446 (1979), 452 (1979), 465 (1980), 476 (1980), 478 (1980), 1397 (2002), 1515 (2003), and 1850 (2008).

It is vital for all those who are involved to abstain from any form of assistance that would lead to investing that assistance in the settlement activities as stipulated in resolution 465 (1980).

The resolution stresses once again that settlements have no legal validity and constitute a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution.

CCPRJ therefore calls upon the international community to continue its efforts by:

- Assuming its international responsibility to cooperate to end colonialism and apartheid, in addition to non-recognition/assistance, and adopt effective measures for this purpose;
- Putting words into action by calling for sanctions against Israel at the UN Security Council.