

## November 29 at the United Nations: The Annual Ritual of Palestinian Solidarity

Beginning in 1977, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has observed November 29 as the “International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.” On that date annually, the Palestinians enlist the UNGA for a day-long event affirming international solidarity with the Palestinian cause, while vilifying the State of Israel.

On November 29, 1947, the United Nations (UN) voted in favor of Resolution 181, the so-called Partition Plan that endorsed the division of British Mandate-Palestine into two states, one Jewish and one Arab. This plan, accepted by Zionist leaders but rejected by Arab states, was an important step in the establishment of the Jewish State in 1948.

Over six decades later, the Palestinians and their supporters continue to mark November 29 as an opportunity to introduce a laundry list of anti-Israel resolutions at the UNGA. The day is marked during times of tensions as well as during times of increased Israeli-Palestinian interaction. These resolutions have long focused on issues relating to Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, support for the UN Committee for the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP) and other pro-Palestinian declarations.

In 2012, following an intensive campaign by Palestinian leaders, the UNGA voted in favor of a resolution to upgrade the official UN status of the Palestinian Authority (PA) from “observer” to “non-member observer state”, one notch below full-member state. While UNGA resolutions are not legally binding, the status upgrade had declarative, symbolic and “public relations” value for the Palestinians. This move came after the PA’s failure in 2011 to secure full UN member state status, which required 9 out of 15 Security Council votes in favor of their application. (ADL background on the 2011 effort is available [here](#).)

The Palestinians, who secured full membership in the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO) in 2011, have threatened to use the GA’s stamp of approval to seek entrance into other international bodies. These potentially include the International Atomic Energy Agency, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, World Health Organization and World Trade Organization, among others.<sup>1</sup> The Palestinians also believe that upgraded UN status will enable them to come under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court, enabling them to pursue international legal action against Israel.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The full list also includes the Food and Agriculture Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, International Fund for Agriculture Development, International Labor Organization, International Maritime Organization, International Telecommunication Union, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Universal Postal Union, World Intellectual Property Organization and World Metrological Organization.

<sup>2</sup> According to news reports, as of August 2013, the Palestinians agreed to suspend their campaign of seeking membership in international organizations during the current round of peace negotiations with Israel.

Israel views Palestinian attempts to upgrade their UN status, as well as their continued promotion of inflammatory resolutions hostile towards Israel, indicating the Palestinians are circumventing their obligations to resolve the conflict through the negotiation process, and are not committed to achieving a two-state solution through bilateral talks.

### **November 29 Resolutions at the 66<sup>th</sup> General Assembly – 2012-2013:**

The language used in previous November 29 resolutions has been quite inflammatory, and presents a one-sided critique of Israel and its policies. Many of these resolutions also demand unilateral Israeli concessions to the Palestinians outside of the context of the peace negotiation framework. Examples of these resolutions include:

1. The Resolution on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine – 66/17: This resolution only calls for Israeli concessions to the Palestinians, and blatantly ignores Palestinian responsibilities, including ending violence and incitement towards Israel.
2. Resolution on Jerusalem – 66/18: This resolution asserts that Israeli control over Jerusalem is illegitimate - "...any actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Holy City of Jerusalem are illegal and therefore null and void and have no validity whatsoever, and calls upon Israel to immediately cease all such illegal and unilateral measures."
3. Resolution on the Syrian Golan – 66/19: This resolution demands a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, but fails to accurately contextualize the issue. There is no mention of the Syrian hostility that led Israel to capture the territory, and the subsequent Syrian military and political support for terrorist organizations like Hezbollah who routinely attack Israel.
4. Resolution supporting the work of the Committee for the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP) – 66-14: This resolution perpetuates the U.N. bureaucracy focused on Palestinian victimhood and the demonizing of Israel. CEIRPP sessions frequently serve as a forum for promoting anti-Israel rhetoric, including false claims that Israel is an "apartheid state" as well as blatantly anti-Semitic comparisons to the Nazis. While the committee claims to endorse peace negotiations, their resolutions and calls to action omit any consideration of the Israeli perspective, and prejudice many issues which both the Israeli and Palestinians have agreed must be negotiated. ([ADL's full report on CEIRPP](#))
5. Resolution on a Special Information Program on the Question of Palestine on the part of the Secretariat's Department of Public Information (DPI) – 66/16: This resolution calls on the DPI to actively promote the Palestinian cause through the dissemination of various UN reports relating to the Palestinians, many of which are heavily biased against Israel, and to assist the Palestinians with their public relations efforts.

**Links to November 29 UN Resolutions Voted on in 2012:**

- [Resolution on the Status of Palestine in the United Nations](#)
- [Resolution on Jerusalem](#)
- [Resolution on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine](#)
- [Resolution on the Syrian Golan](#)
- [Resolution on a Special Information Program on the Question of Palestine on the part of the Secretariat's Department of Public Information](#)
- [Resolution on the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat](#)
- [Resolution supporting the work of CEIRPP](#)