

## **Montaser Abu Zaid**

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### **THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE PALESTINIAN «EARTH DAY»**

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Palestine Montasser Abu Zeid kindly provided the text of his lecture for students and teachers of the Faculty of International Relations of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, dedicated to the 43rd anniversary of the Day of Earth Protection (Land day). Montaser Abu Zeid, giving a brief overview of the history of the Middle East conflict, analyzed in more detail the significance of the resolutions adopted by the GA and the UN Security Council, the position of US President D. Trump regarding the issue of the Golan Heights, the status of Jerusalem and other issues. With his permission, we publish it in a scientific journal. Montasser Abu Zeid – a scientist, has a PhD degree.

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#### **Палестинаның «Жер күні» жылдығы**

Палестина мемлекетінің Төтенше және Өкілетті Елшісі Монтасер Абу Зейд әл-Фараби атындағы Қазақ ұлттық университеті халықаралық қатынастар факультетінің студенттері мен оқытушыларына өзінің Жерді Қорғау Күнінің (Land day) 43 жылдығына арналған дәрісін таныстырды. Монтасер Абу Зейд Қиыр Шығыстағы қақтығыстар тарихына қысқаша түсінік бере отырып, БҰҰ ҚК және БА қабылдаған және АҚШ президенті Д. Трамптың Иерусалим мәртебесі және тағы басқа да өзекті мәселелерге көзқарасына талдау жасайды. Бұл еңбекті оның рұқсатымен ғылыми журналға жариялап отырмыз. Монтасер Абу Зейд – ғалым, ғылым кандидаты, PhD докторы.

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#### **Годовщина палестинского «Дня Земли»**

Чрезвычайный и Полномочный Посол Государства Палестина Монтасер Абу Зейд любезно предоставил текст своей лекции для студентов и преподавателей факультета международных отношений КазНУ имени аль-Фараби, посвященной 43-й годовщине Дня защиты земли (Land day). Монтасер Абу Зейд, дав краткое представление об истории ближневосточного конфликта, более подробно проанализировал значение резолюций, принятых ГА и СБ ООН, позицию президента США Д. Трампа касательно вопроса о принадлежности Голанских высот, статуса Иерусалима и других вопросов. С его позволения мы публикуем ее в научном журнале. Монтасер Абу Зейд – ученый, кандидат наук, имеет степень доктора PhD.

On March 30, 2018 marks the 42nd Anniversary of the "Earth Day", which goes back to the mass Arab uprising in the territories of 1948. On that day, a protest was declared against the occupation of land and judaisation, which were carried out by Israel. As a result of the uprising, this historically memorable day became known as the «Earth Day».

The events of this day date back to 1976 when the Israeli authorities occupied thousands of dunams (unit of measure) of Palestinian land in the territories of 1948. There was a general strike and marches from Galilee to the Negev, clashes began and resulted in the death of six Palestinians, as well as hundreds of wounded and arrested.

It should be noted that the spark that ignited the Arab mass uprising on Earth Day was the fact that the Israeli authorities occupied about 21,000 dunams of land in several Arab villages: in Galilee, including Araba, Sakhnin, Deir Hanna, Arab Sawad and other lands in 1976. All the occupied lands were given for new settlements, within the Galilean Judaisation plan and aimed to make Arab population less, which made Palestinians direct victims of the national strike on the 30th of March.

On this day, people of cities and the villages of Galilee and Musallas went on a national strike. The Israeli authorities tried to break the strike by force and that led to a clash between the citizens and the Israeli forces, the most violent of which took place in the villages of Sakhnin, Araba and Deir Hannah.

According to the Supreme Committee for Control, the governing organization of the Palestinians of 1948, Israel has occupied about one and a half million dunams since the occupation of Palestine and until 1976.

Palestinian people every year celebrate Earth day occasion. This year on March 30 they organized peaceful demonstration in Gaza strip. But Israeli forces faced this peaceful demonstration by shooting and bombing on people. In the result, 17 people were killed and more than 1400 were injured. This is a new crime committed by Israel occupation against Palestinian people. This crime was discussed in Security Council on 31st of March and it was decided to investigate it and punish the killers.

### **Jerusalem and international resolutions**

On 29th November 1947 the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 181, which called for the end of the British Mandate for Palestine and its division into two states, while keeping an economic union between them and transforming Jerusalem into an independent regional unit with a special international status.

From here, we see that a radical solution to the Palestinian problem can be achieved only on the basis of Resolution 181, which gives for the people of Palestine and Israel both the right to an independent and equal existence... Since its establishment, Israel continues to violate the Charter of the United Nations, which calls for the recognition of the right of all people for self-determination, national sovereignty and independence. Moreover, unjustified occupation of the territory continues by wars in neighboring locations to its borders.

In 1967, the Security Council adopted Resolution 242, which called to withdrawal Israeli forces from the territories occupied during the June 1967 War and stipulates the need for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

### **Official concern**

Since the Israeli occupation stayed in the Palestinian territories (West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem) defining its future after the withdrawal of the Israeli forces is not only a humanitarian mission, but also an international political issue and it is directly related to the implementation of the national rights of the Palestinian people.

The ruling circles of Israel are especially concerned about Jerusalem's West part when it was illegally declared by Israel as its capital since 1950. This illegal step was firmly rejected by the international community.

On 7th June 1967, Israel occupied the other part of Jerusalem... following its aggression, which began on 5th June in the same year ... In August 1980, Israel annexed occupied Jerusalem as its unified capital.

If we noticed the history of the annexation of "Israel" to the city of Jerusalem, as well as the Knesset (the parliament of "Israel") when it has taken the legislation of the Basic Law, which stated that "Jerusalem is the capital of Israel," where the first article of it says "Jerusalem is full and unified capital of Israel"... and it is the "legislation" on which annexation was based, than we say "If we noted this and that, it becomes clear that Israel, while being in a peaceful relationships with Egypt was hiding its ambition to devote the annexation of Jerusalem and reunify it under Israeli ruling, no longer need to hide something after the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli agreement in 26 March 1979".

According to the above-mentioned Knesset law, Israel regards full sovereignty over Jerusalem as an absolute right, ignoring the resolutions of the Security Council, which is warning about the results of such a decision (resolution No. 476), or

judgment of the Israeli decision and consider it as invalid in accordance with international legitimacy (Resolution No. 478).

In fact, this was not the first time when Israel had ignored international resolutions. Israel's decision to take Jerusalem as its eternal capital is a challenge to international legitimacy and its resolutions, especially Resolution No. 250 of 1968 and Resolution No. 253 of 1968, which considered all administrative and legislative measures taken by Israel, including land and property occupation that will lead to a change the legal status of Jerusalem are declared invalid.

### **Trump's Decision to Recognize Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel in International Law**

Trump's statement is a dangerous case in the history of international law and international relations. The Palestinian-Israeli issue has been discussed since the establishment of the United Nations in 1945 up to this day. The United States of America has established itself as a replacement for the United Nations and the International Community. They ignore International Resolutions and International Law. For the past 70 years, the United States is taking sides with Israel as if it was an ordinary rule and decided to declare Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution of 128 votes, which did not recognize Trump's statement on Jerusalem as the capital of Israel

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on December 21, 2017 which rejected the statement of US President Donald Trump on the recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, with the support of 128 countries, with 9 countries against and 35 abstained.

US Ambassador to the UN, Nicky Haley, repeated her threats to the countries that would vote for the resolution and said: "The United States will remember this day." The United Nations General Assembly voted in favor of the resolution of Jerusalem "Resolution A-1022" with 128 votes, which is 66.3% of the total number of votes. Of the 193 member states of the General Assembly, 35 countries abstained, and 9 countries voted against the resolution, including America and Israel. It should be noted: the draft resolution confirms that the question of Jerusalem is a matter of final status completion that must be resolved through direct negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis, in accordance with the related to resolutions of the Security Council. The draft resolution has deep regret

over the recent decisions concerning the status of the city and it confirms that any decisions or actions "aimed at changing its nature, status or demography, have no force or effect and should be canceled in accordance with resolutions of the Security Council ". The resolution also calls upon all states "to refrain from setting up diplomatic missions in Jerusalem in accordance with Security Council Resolution No. 478 of 1980".

### **Major decisions**

Resolutions issued by the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council on Jerusalem "to mention few of them":

1. United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 181 (2nd session) of 29th November 1947.

2. General Assembly Resolution No.273 (3rd session) of 11th May 1949, acceptance of Israel as a Member of the United Nations.

3. General Assembly Resolution No.303 (4th session) of 9th December 1949, reaffirming the status of Jerusalem under a permanent international order.

4. General Assembly Resolution No.2253 (Emergency Special Session No.5) of 4th July 1967, called upon Israel to cancel the measures taken to change the status of Jerusalem and to hold back from it in the future.

5. General Assembly Resolution No.2254 (Emergency Special Session No.5) of 14th July 1967, expressed regret at the measures taken by Israel to change the status of Jerusalem.

6. General Assembly Resolution No.2851 (26th session) of 20th December 1971, demanding Israel to cancel all measures to annex or settle the occupied territories and request the Special Committee to continue its work.

7. General Assembly Resolution No. 2949 (27th session) of 8th December 1972, expressing grave concern at the continued Israeli occupation of Arab territories and calling upon all States not to recognize the changes that Israel has made in the occupied Arab territories and to avoid actions that could make recognition of that occupation.

8. General Assembly Resolution No. 207/35 of 16th December 1980, strongly criticize the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinian people and confirming the strong rejection of Israel's decision to annex Jerusalem.

9. Security Council Resolution No. 250 of 27th April 1968, calling on Israel to hold back from a military parade in Jerusalem.

10. Security Council Resolution No. 251 of 2nd May 1968, expressing deep regret at the

establishment of the military parade in Jerusalem.

11. Security Council Resolution No. 252 of 21st May 1968, calling upon Israel to cancel all its measures to change the status of Jerusalem.

12. Security Council Resolution No 267 of 3rd July 1969, once again calling upon Israel to cancel all measures that would change the status of Jerusalem.

13. Security Council Resolution No. 271 of 15th September 1969 criticize Israel for the desecration of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and called for the abolition of all measures that would change the status of Jerusalem.

14. UN Security Council Resolution No. 298 of 25th September 1971, regretted Israel's failure to respect United Nations resolutions on its actions to change the status of Jerusalem.

15. Resolution No. 465 dated by 1st March 1980, demanding Israel to remove settlements, stop planning and building settlements in the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem.

16. Resolution No. 476 of 30th June 1980, declaring invalid the measures taken by Israel to change the status of Jerusalem.

17. Security Council resolution No. 478 of 20th August 1980, non-recognition of the "Basic Law" on Jerusalem and to call upon states to withdraw their diplomatic missions.

### **Republic of Kazakhstan – State of Palestine: Diplomacy and Politics**

*Commentary from Gubaidullina M. on the lecture by the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the State of Palestine, Montaser Abu Zeid*

Palestine is considered one of the first states to recognize the sovereignty of our republic in 1991. Soon, on April 6, 1992, in the first year of independence of sovereign Kazakhstan, diplomatic relations were established with the State of Palestine (SP), in 1993 the Embassy of Palestine was opened in Almaty, which continues to operate now in Nur-Sultan (Astana). Due to complex contradictions in the Arab East, Kazakhstan's relations with Palestine are supervised by the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The legal base of Kazakhstani-Palestinian relations has a small number of documents, among them the «Agreement on cultural cooperation», the «Protocol on cooperation in the field of sports and youth movement for 1999-2001» and some others. There is no need to talk about serious trade and economic relations, because the exchange of goods between the two countries is practically not counted. Nevertheless, sometimes some activities appear in

this area. In May 2014, a Palestinian delegation led by the Chairman of the Palestinian Monetary Agency Jihad Al-Wazir took part in the work of the VII Astana Economic Forum and held negotiations.

In international politics, Kazakhstan initially adhered to the position of recognizing Palestine as a state. From the first days of its independence, Kazakhstan has advocated the settlement of the Middle East problem on the basis of international law. The First President of Kazakhstan has repeatedly stressed that Palestine is an important partner in the Middle East, and «we attach great importance to expanding and deepening cooperation with Palestine. The potential of our cooperation remains unrealized due to the unresolved Palestinian-Israeli conflict».

The first Arab leader who visited Kazakhstan after declaring its independence was Yasser Arafat. Yasser Arafat is one of the important politicians of the modern world, he was the Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Palestinian National Administration/PNA (December 1991 and April 1999). His opinion and political position have always had weight in the international community. It was during his time that he had friendly and trusting ties with the State of Palestine.

Bilateral visits largely contributed to the further strengthening of friendly relations between the two countries, Kazakhstan and Palestine. The first official visit of the President of Kazakhstan N. Nazarbayev to Palestine in December 1995 laid the foundations for cooperation between the two countries. During the next visit in April 2000, relations reached a higher political level, there is a trace of a consequent political contacts between the leaders of our states.

Mahmoud Abbas, who became the Secretary General of the PLO in 1996 and became in fact the second in the PLO hierarchy after Yasser Arafat, continued the line on stable relations with Kazakhstan and in general with CIS. After the death of Arafat in 2004, Mahmoud Abbas became the leader of the PLO. In October 2008, he came to Kazakhstan with an official visit.

Among significant events in relationships between our countries are various international forums where the problem of the Middle East and ways to resolve them were discussed. Palestine and Israel, as participants in the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), joined the Declaration on the Elimination of Terrorism and Dialogue among Civilizations, adopted at the first summit of 2002 in Almaty. In particular, there was expressed the hope that the CICA could not only solve the problems

of Palestine and Israel, but also contribute to the creation of a security system on a global scale (CICA Declaration, 2002). It is believed that the period of Kazakhstan's chairmanship in the CICA from 2002 to 2010 was the most successful (MFA, 2018).

A significant achievement of Kazakhstan's diplomacy was the presence of Arab representatives with the participation of Palestine and Israel at the first Summit in Almaty on June 3-4, 2002. From the very beginning the summit organizers sought to ensure the presence of the Arab side at the highest level. This issue was the subject of negotiations by the CICA Executive Secretary, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan – Kairat Abuseitov – during his trip to the Middle East in the spring of 2001. A personal invitation to take part in the upcoming meeting of the heads of the CICA member states was conveyed to the leaders of the Arab states, in particular, to Yasser Arafat. The same issue was discussed at the meeting of the then Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Kassym-Zhomart Tokayev with the Palestinian ambassador in Kazakhstan and the doyen Mohammed Abdullah Tarshahani (1993-2004).

In early June 2002, both conflicting states declared that they were ready for a dialogue with each other. The Palestinian leadership called for a broad peaceful dialogue between the leaders of the CICA member states to promote the speedy resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. This was said in a speech at the first summit on June 4, adviser to the chairman of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), Sukhdi Tarazi. He emphasized the political role of the Israeli army, which, according to him, puts the entire region on the brink of a general conflict.

The activity of a foreign diplomatic mission in Kazakhstan proceeds in a favorable atmosphere of friendliness, tolerance and openness, which undoubtedly contributes to the development of bilateral relations and mutually beneficial cooperation and mutual understanding between the countries.

Montaser Abu Zeid became the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the State of Palestine in the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2015. He has extensive experience in the diplomatic service; for 22 years without a break, he had been working abroad – in Kenya, Albania, and Greece. Prior to his appointment to Kazakhstan, Montaser Abu Zeid had been working for a long time for seven and a half years in Minsk (Belarus) and he was elected as a doyen (elder of the diplomatic corps). Montaser Abu

Zeid has a scientific degree as a doctor of historical sciences, he got his doctorate in the Belarusian State University; he also has a master degree in the field of international relations that he had got in the National University of Kyiv. He has got the scientific works that he has been writing and having published. The parallels drawn by him on the political issues of his region through the prism of historical overview of the Soviet republics' past are well-known.

In this respect, while commenting on the 2008 occasions when the relations between Palestine and Israel had strained once again, he stated that the Palestinian people were suffering in the same way as the Belarusians during the Great Patriotic War. Indeed, in December, 2008, 400 people died in Palestine, including 50 children, also, 2 000 people were injured, including 200 seriously wounded ones. He called the EU countries and the USA to «invade the conflict and make Israel implement the UN resolutions on the peaceful settlement of the conflict»; «we are ready to implement all the UN resolutions, all treaties signed by Israel» (Belarusian news, 2008).

Speaking of the diplomatic background of presenting the credentials, the protocol is attracting the attention. The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Montaser Abu Zeid presented his credentials from the State of Palestine to the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N. Nazarbayev on October 14, 2015, together with a group of the other countries' foreign diplomats that have simultaneously stated to assume their functions in Kazakhstan: Cho Yong-chun (Republic of Korea); Ahmed Idris Inab (Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan); Pedro José Sanz Serrano (Kingdom of Spain); Juris Pogrebnaks (Republic of Latvia). The Head of Stated N. Nazarbayev had emphasized that Kazakhstan was going to continue the course towards active expanding and deepening of the international relationships with the states that they were representing in Astana at that moment.

The ceremonial meeting took place in Akorda in the days when Kazakhstan was celebrating the 550th anniversary of the Kazakh Khanate establishment, the event that is directly connected with the state history and Kazakh diplomacy shaping. N. Nazarbayev pointed out while welcoming the diplomats, the Kazakh Khanate was a united state that had played a special role in the Kazakh ethnicity consolidation, had become a stage of the statehood development when the Steppe diplomacy background was created. In his turn, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Montaser Abu Zeid emphasized that «he and his nation are thanking Kazakhstan for the principled position regarding all the resolutions of the UNGA and the UNSC on the Arab-Israeli conflict». «To date, your country headed by Nursultan Nazarbayev plays an important role in the peaceful solution of the situation in the Middle East,» – Montaser Abu Zeid pointed out.

As is known, Kazakhstan, as an active international community participant, has proposed numerous initiatives in the United Nations, always supporting the international efforts aimed at restoring confidence, consolidation of peace and security based on the international law. One of these initiatives is a new regional international type organization, the CICA, in the frameworks of which the dialogue experience between the representatives of the State of Israel and Palestine has already been approved during the 2002 Almaty CICA summit.

Proposing its candidacy as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the 2017-2018 period, Kazakhstan has accumulated considerable experience in leading the negotiation process and dialogue between the Middle Eastern states. During its presidency of the UNSC, the Kazakhstani delegation has been continuing the chosen line towards decreasing the risks and conflict

level in the Middle East supporting the position of Palestine.

The formation of a new international relations architecture in the XXI century is accompanied by the increase of the old and new global risks and regional challenges, new threats unknown in the world. The potential of the risk connected with traditional security is remaining. All of this altogether requires mutual understanding on the international level, unity and unification of all states.

The spiritual sphere of cooperation is one of the aspects of traditional cooperation with Palestine and regular contacts. According to the SAMK press office, in March 2019 the Chairperson of the Spiritual Association of the Muslims of Kazakhstan Serikbai Kazhy Oraz had a visit from the Ambassador of Palestine Montaser Abu Zeid upon his request. During the meeting, the exchange of views on the relations between Kazakhstan and Palestine in the cultural, spiritual fields, unity and solidarity of the Islamic Ummah took place. Kazakhstan has held the sixth Forum of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, thereby calling the world nations to unity and solidarity. The Ambassador Montaser Abu Zeid, while talking about the role of Islam in the contemporary world, has emphasized the peaceful nature of this religion (UMMET.KZ, 6.03.2019).

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