



## **Brazil's Statement to the UN Security Council**

**New York, 03 April 2002**

Statement by Ambassador Gelson Fonseca Jr.

Mr. President,

The Brazilian Government remains deeply alarmed with the growing and fast deterioration of the situation.

We call upon the parties to comply, immediately and thoroughly, with Resolutions 1397 and 1402 of the Security Council, especially in regard to a meaningful cease-fire.

We join the international community in the call on Israel to suspend all military actions in the occupied territories, to roll back illegal occupation and settlement activities, to respect the Palestinian National Authority and its leadership, and to withdraw without delay from the Palestinian cities. The threat that military escalation has brought to the holy shrines of all three religions must stop immediately. Recent military actions against the Palestinian Authority compound in Ramallah are deplorable.

Israeli authorities must understand that excessive use of force does not generate any sense of security for its own people. On the contrary, it only fuels the dreadful spiral of violence and reprisals that makes the vision of peace even more remote for everyone.

We condemn the decision to isolate President Arafat, the attempts to threaten his physical integrity and to demoralize his leadership over the Palestinian Authority and people. Any attempt to exile him out of his homeland would be yet a further and grave mistake. It cannot and will not be accepted by the international community.

We fully understand the grievances of both Israelis and Palestinians. And we all want their suffering to stop.

But disproportionate and lethal use of force by Israel as well as unacceptable acts of terrorism and suicidal bombings by Palestinian militants only jeopardize even further any prospect for a political and lasting settlement to the conflict in the Middle East.

We are dismayed with the fact that the two parties are clearly failing to keep the course towards a negotiated solution for the conflict, and that their daily attitude towards each other seems to be crafted so as to make this goal even more distant.

**Brazilian Palestinian National Interest Committee**



Thank you.



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