



Brazil's Statement to the UN Security Council

New York, 26 February 2002

Statement by Ambassador Gelson Fonseca Jr.

Mr. President,

We strongly deplore all acts of violence, and particularly the terrorist attacks and suicidal bombings that continue to occur, which afflict Israeli civilians. In the same vein we also strongly deplore the excessive use of force by Israeli military forces, especially against civilian targets, including the deliberate destruction of infra-structure in the occupied Palestinian territories.

We call for the lifting of the closures that stifle the Palestinian economy.

There must be no artificial preconditions of any kind for the parties to take the road back to the negotiating table. Resumption of the peace process cannot remain hostage to extremist actions.

We regret the maintenance of the virtual house arrest imposed on Chairman Yasser Arafat. The Palestinian Authority plays an essential role; it is an indispensable party for peace and, as such, needs to be fully preserved with the conditions to meet its political and security commitments.

We consider that the full freedom of movement of Chairman Arafat would create a befitted moment for both parties to start implementing, in full and without delay, the Mitchell Committee recommendations and the Tenet understandings so as to secure a durable ceasefire.

Political will must be garnered to resume a meaningful dialogue aimed at reaching a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement based on Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and the understandings reached between the Parties.

Thank you.

Brazilian Palestinian National Interest Committee