

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Palestine National Liberation Movement  
FATEH  
International Relations Commission



حركة التحرير الوطني الفلسطيني  
فـتـح  
مفوضية العلاقات الدولية

8/8/2017

### **Fatah welcomes decision by South African parliament**

Fatah commends the parliament of South Africa for sending a clear and strong message to the Israeli regime by refusing to meet with its officials, this decision by the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa asserts the strong solidarity with the Palestinians just cause. We trust that all structures of government and political parties will respect this position of non-engagement. Progressive South African political parties once called for a "no normal relations with an abnormal State" during the 1980s, Palestinian too have called for a similar position.

The decision by South Africa comes on the backdrop of SA's ruling party, the ANC's National Policy Conference Recommendation to downgrade the South African Embassy in Tel-Aviv. We are confident that we will see continued downgrading of Relations between the two countries as a demonstration of disapproval by South Africa to the unacceptable treatment by Israel to us, the Palestinian people.

We salute the people of South Africa for taking this principled decision to not legitimize a regime that practices apartheid and settler colonialism, your continued acts of Solidarity gives us hope and strength to continue to fight and resist the brutal Israeli occupation. As your own anti-Apartheid icons have attested, Israel is involved in gross human rights violations against the Palestinian people, those who choose to work with Israel must know that they endorse Israel's disregard for human rights and violations of international law.

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The Palestinian people appreciate your friendship; we draw great lessons from your own unfortunate experience under apartheid and are confident that we too will see the end of apartheid in Palestine.

The Parliament of South Africa is indeed echoing and advancing the sentiments of Nelson Mandela who said in 1999: "The long-standing fraternal bonds between our two liberation movements are now translating into relations between two governments".

Finally, we salute all South African solidarity organizations, human rights groups, the local BDS movement, trade unions and others who have remain resolute in their Support of the Palestinian Struggle against Israeli Apartheid.

Rawhi Fattouh

Member of Fatah Central Committee  
Commissioner General of International Relations