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FM Malki addressing UNSC: Thousands more will be killed in Gaza as the Council continues being prevented from calling for an immediate ceasefire



NEW YORK, Wednesday, January 24, 2024 (Wafa) – Addressing the Security Council meeting on the situation in the Middle East including the Palestinian question on Tuesday, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Riyad al-Malki said that dozens

more of civilians in Gaza will be killed in the hours that this Council meets and thousands more as the Council continues being prevented from calling for an immediate ceasefire, noting that these atrocities “shock and shame the human conscience”.

Malki in his remarks to the UNSC painted a grim picture of Israel’s deadly aggression against the Palestinian people, which he stressed continues unabated and is taking thousands of innocent civilian lives, destroying everything in its path and threatening regional and international peace and security.

“This is not the result of a natural disaster or a regrettable consequence of war. rather, it is a premeditated effort to inflict maximum pain on the Palestinian population, he stressed.

“Israel has unleashed the most savage and indiscriminate bombing campaign since the Second World War. Further, it has imposed a cruel siege on Gaza — leading to famine, dehydration, disease and despair — and its actions have led to forcible displacement at a scale and speed not witnessed in modern history.”

“No home, hospital, school, mosque, church or UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East] shelter is safe from Israel’s bombardments,” he declared, pointing to “2,000-ton bombs dropped with no care whatsoever for civilian lives”.

More than 25,000 civilians have been killed, including over 11,000 children, more than 63,000 have been injured, thousands have been permanently maimed or disabled and more than 7,000 have been buried under the rubble, Malki told the UNSC.

“From Kampala, where the Global South was gathered, to Brussels where Arab Ministers met their European counterparts, to the United Nations in New York, the world is calling for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire,” he said, juxtaposing the will

of the international community with “the whims of an Israeli Prime Minister driven by a single goal — his own political survival, at the expense of the survival of millions of Palestinians”.

Israeli leaders, he said, “do not see our people as an empirical and political reality to coexist with, but as a demographic threat to get rid of through death, displacement or subjugation”.

There are only two paths ahead, he stressed; one that starts with Palestinian freedom and leads to shared peace and security in the region, or one that continues denying this freedom and dooms the region to endless conflict, said Malki.

“Israel should no longer entertain the illusion that there is somehow a third path whereby it can choose continued occupation and colonialism and apartheid and somehow still achieve regional peace and security,” he emphasized.

Instead, it is time for international law and UN resolutions to be respected fully, for non-compliance to be penalized and for accountability, he added. “Also, it is time to recognize and admit the State of Palestine to the UN.”

“There are two choices — a spreading fire or a ceasefire,” he said, adding that the alternative to freedom, justice and peace is what is happening now.

T.R.

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