



Embassy of The Islamic Republic of Iran Wellington

In the Name of God

The statement of the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Wellington to the remarks by the ambassador of the Zionist Regime in New Zealand

The recent remarks by the ambassador of the Zionist Regime in New Zealand regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran in conversation with one of New Zealand's media (The Platform NZ) are nothing but an obvious and deliberate projection and clumsy attempt to cover up the massive international crimes by this regime in Palestine. Zionist Regime representative in this conversation tried to divert the attention of the New Zealanders away from the ongoing war crimes and crimes against humanity committed against the helpless and defenseless Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and occupied Palestine. He has been attempting to justify and legitimize the daily massacre of the Zionist Regime against innocent people by employing typical diversionary tactics, including Iranophobia, making misleading and unsubstantiated claims, spreading misinformation, and pointing a finger at Iran.

The allegations by him are extremely shameful as ignored all international crimes of Israel in the region at a time when the Israeli regime's actions have resulted in the deaths of nearly 34000 Palestinians including more than 14500 children, more than 9500 women, and 96 Palestinian journalists since October 7. Adding that Israel's war has destroyed Gaza's Infrastructures including 60 percent of residential buildings, 83 percent of groundwater wells, 80 percent of school buildings, 267 places of worship, and more than 11 hospitals.

We are not surprised by those lies proliferated by him as he has no respect for international law. This regime has continuously initiated terrorist and destructive operations and attacks against Iranian officials, scientists, civilians, public services like emergency aid, and Iran's peaceful nuclear infrastructures inside Iranian territory in recent decades. Israel has always tried to avoid accountability by not accepting responsibility for its crimes. As it denies the Palestinian genocide.

At the last year's UN General Assembly, the head of the Zionist regime threatened Iran with what he called a "credible nuclear attack". Just recently, another Israeli minister claimed that a nuclear attack on Gaza was an "option"!

The Islamic Republic of Iran's operation on 13 April 2024 was carried out within the framework of the inherent and legitimate right of self-defense according to Article 51 of the United Nations Charter in response to the Zionist regime's military attack targeting the premises of the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Damascus, which led to the martyrdom of 7 Iranian military advisers who were present in Syria based on the official invitation of the Syrian government. This attack violated the 1961 Vienna Convention, the 1973 New York Convention, and other international laws and regulations.

Iran never invaded its neighbors, never occupied other people's land, never maintained an entire nation under occupation, never built settlements, never displaced civilians, never targeted children and hospitals, never cut off electricity to kill babies in incubators, never used starvation as a military tactic, never blatantly violated International humanitarian law and never committed genocide. Unlike Israel, the Islamic Republic of Iran's operation was a proportionate military action aimed at targeting the military bases in occupied Palestine from which the Iranian embassy in Damascus had been attacked. this operation was structured to ensure the safety of civilians. No civilian and non-military centers including cities, hospitals, Synagogues, infrastructures, etc were targeted.

The root of the continued current crisis in the region is the Zionist regime's aggression and genocide in Gaza. this apartheid regime is undeniably responsible for the tragic loss of innocent lives resulting from its ongoing atrocities against civilians in Gaza and it cannot evade accountability by falsely blaming Iran. The international community must promptly address the catastrophic humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and ensure that those responsible are held accountable for their criminal acts against the Palestinian people.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has already and repeatedly stated that in its principled framework, it does not seek to expand the scope of the war and escalations in the region and it has shown this issue in its responsible restraint. The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to react strongly in case of any attack in the future.