**Brazil's Enduring Commitment to the Palestinian Cause... A Legacy of Solidarity**

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh

Brazil had recognized the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in 1975. Since then it has been strengthening its commitment to defending Palestinian rights on the international stage. By welcoming the PLO’s permanent representative to its capital, Brasília, Brazil has affirmed its steadfast support for the Palestinian cause as a deeply rooted stance based on principles of justice, solidarity, and human rights.

As such, President Lula da Silva has elevated the issue to new heights in Brazilian foreign policy. His deep interest in the Middle East, particularly the Palestinian struggle, has been demonstrated through various initiatives aimed at promoting peace and justice in the region.

The historic visit by President da Silva to Palestine marked a significant milestone, as he became the first Brazilian head of state to personally engage with Palestinian leadership. Furthermore, President Lula's bold decision to recognize a Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders in 2010 sent a strong message to the international community.

In his inaugural speech for his third presidential term, President Lula once again reaffirmed Brazil's fundamental commitment to the Palestinian cause, emphasizing the necessity of solidarity and international cooperation in resolving the conflict. His steadfast support echoed Brazil's long-term defense of Palestinian rights. as well as his personal belief in the power of diplomacy and dialogue to enhance peace and stability in the region.

President Lula da Silva's condemnation of the situation in Gaza Strip as 'genocide' represented a bold stance grounded in ethical principles against severe humanitarian atrocities. The echoes of his words, delivered during the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, resonated worldwide, highlighting Brazil's steadfast commitment to justice and human rights on the international stage.

Through his unequivocal condemnation of the war on Gaza, considering it not merely a conflict between armies but a brutal assault on civilians, he sheds light on the stark realities faced by Palestinians living under occupation and siege.

President Lula's statements served as a testament to his moral clarity and willingness to speak the truth, even when he faced political pressures and criticism. Furthermore, his condemnation of the Israeli aggression echoed as a resounding call for global solidarity and action to end violence and alleviate the suffering of civilians caught in the crossfire. The echo of his statement continues to resonate among millions worldwide who shared his anger over the humanitarian disaster and the urgent need for a just and lasting solution.