

## The National Campaign

# Palestine: State no. 194

The decision of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, to seek membership of the State of Palestine in the United Nations constitutes the beginning of an important phase in the contemporary national struggle to end the occupation and achieve Palestine's independence. As such, the energies, supportive efforts, and contribution of the Palestinian people to this effort are vital to its success as is the support of peoples worldwide.

Like other peoples, Palestinians aspire to a future of freedom, dignity, and prosperity. This goal, which Palestinians have long struggled to realize, is also deeply rooted in the universal values of human rights. The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and establishing its state is a natural, historical, and legal right. It is also a right guaranteed by all international laws and covenants, including the United Nations Charter and resolutions, at the forefront of which is UN General Assembly resolution 181 (II). Additionally, this step is in line with the rules of international law, the principles of the peace process, and related international resolutions.

As such, Palestine's membership at the United Nations is an important step towards freedom. An internationally recognized State of Palestine brings Palestinians closer to our goal: ending the occupation, exercising the Palestinians' inalienable rights, including its right to self-determination and establishing its democratic state on the 1967 borders, with east Jerusalem as its capital, and the return of refugees on the basis of UN resolution 194.

With that in mind, we took the initiative to launch a national campaign to support the Palestinian campaign to join the United Nations. We chose the banner "Palestine: State no. 194", given that there are now 193 member states at the United Nations. This campaign was born out of a series of popular meetings of a wide array of sectors in Palestinian society, including unions, political groups, and independent figures. These consultations concluded with the establishment of a coordination office for the campaign, in charge of following up, coordinating, and organizing activities and events across the Palestinian homeland and in cooperation with the various

supportive initiatives and actions in Arab and international capitals.

The National Campaign “Palestine: State no. 194” is a national and peaceful campaign that aims to achieve the widest possible popular participation of the Palestinian people, wherever they may be around the world, as well as friends of Palestine worldwide. We aim to organize activities and events starting at the beginning of September, peaking at the beginning of the United Nation’s 66<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Session on 21 September, and lasting until the achievement of our goal in the State of Palestine joining the United Nations, to become member state 194.