



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

Registration No. 2795/2012

OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

ICSFT CATEGORICALLY REJECTS TRUMP'S DECISION TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL OVER THE SYRIAN TERRITORY OF THE GOLAN HEIGHTS



President Donald Trump signing the proclamation in Washington, Monday, March 25, 2019.

ICSFT deplores USA president Donald Trump decision of signing an order recognizing Israeli sovereignty over the occupied Golan Heights, seized from Syria in 1967. In contravention to international law Israel annexed the Golan Heights in 1981.

USA had the same stance for decades as the UN and the rest of the international community when it comes to Syrian Golan. The international community did not recognize Israel's annexation and maintained that the Golan was occupied Syrian territory.

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Most importantly, UN Security Council Resolution 497 adopted unanimously in 1981 declared Israel's "decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights is null and void and without international legal effect, and demand Israel rescind its decision".

This changed yesterday when President Trump overturned decades of USA policy in a tweet announcing his order that recognized the occupying Israeli power in Syrian Golan.

Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan are suffering due to the systematic and continuous violation of their fundamental and human rights by Israel since the Israeli military occupation of 1967.

UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said "The UN's policy on Golan is reflected in the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and that policy has not changed"

Syria regarded this move by USA as "a blatant attack on its sovereignty". Adding "The Syrian nation and its people are more determined to liberate this precious piece of Syrian national land through all available means". Further reiterated "Syria strongly condemns the irresponsible declaration of the American president, which again proves the US's blind tendency in favor of the Zionist entity and its unreserved support for its aggression".

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said "There is no legitimacy that can override UN Security Council resolutions, the UN General Assembly or the Arab Peace Initiative."

Russia said this decision will bring a new wave of tension to the Middle East by preventing peace efforts in the region as is it has been the case when it comes to recent USA policy decisions regarding Israel. We all remember the controversial decision made by Trump made to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and



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ordered the relocation of the US embassy to the city from Tel Aviv which was rejected by the UN general assembly.

The EU says it does not recognize Israeli sovereignty over the Golan, and its position on the issue "has not changed".

A spokeswoman for EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, said "The European Union, in accordance with international law, does not recognize Israel's sovereignty over the territories it occupied since July 1967, including the Golan Heights, and does not consider them as part of Israeli territory,"

Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Arab League Secretary-General stated the announcement was "completely beyond international law".

This is a clear illustration of how biased and irresponsible USA is when it comes to its ally, the occupying Israel. Trump's decision is a violation of important principles of international law. In particular, the decision violates a UN Security Council resolution that rules out acquiring territory by war. By issuing this order Trump has endorsed the seizure of territory from a sovereign country, and thus loses any moral authority to criticize another nation for doing the same.

However this illegal and unacceptable recognition does not change the fact that the Golan was and will remain Syrian, Arab. Of note the UN said the legal status of the Golan Heights remains unchanged -- despite Trump's announcement -- and will still be considered "occupied territory" under international law.

ICSFT strongly urges Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Human Rights Council, in particular Security Council resolution 497 (1981), in which the Council decided, inter alia, that the decision of Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan was null and void and without international legal effect, and demanded that Israel rescind forthwith its decision.

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Additionally we call up on Israel to immediately stop its continuous building of illegal settlements, the most recent of which is the settlement campaign being conducted by Golan Regional Council under the slogan “Come to the Golan”, and allow the displaced persons of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan to return to their homes and to recover their property.

Finally we urge USA to rescind this illegal and inflammatory decision and stand on the right side of history!