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## RESOLUTION

### OF THE MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY ON ORTHODOXY (IAO) ON THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE.

Alexandria, 2 March 2002.

*Bearing in mind* that the critical situation prevailing in the Palestinian territories has deteriorated even further, in a way that peace in the wider region is jeopardized,

Resolves as follows:

1. **Expresses its concern** at the deterioration of the situation in the Palestinian territories and at the consequences this deterioration brings upon the Palestinian and Israeli people.
2. **Condemns** the violence exerted by the Israeli army against the civilian Palestinian population, among whom children are often the victims of such violence, and also **condemns** the tactics of armed attacks, including even the use of rockets, against residential areas and specific persons.
3. **Condemns** the punitive and vindictive demolition of Palestinian homes, turning Palestinian families yet again into refugees and destroying Palestinian properties.
4. **Unreservedly condemns** the unacceptable measure of confinement taken by the Israeli Government against the Chairman of the Palestinian Authority, Yasser Arafat, who is the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.
5. **Supports** the dispatching of an international observer force to the Palestinian territories in order to prevent further bloodshed.
6. **Calls upon** the two sides to support the peace process and to work consistently towards a just solution of the Palestinian problem on the basis of the pertinent UN Resolutions and agreements between them, considering that such a solution will contribute to the progress and prosperity of both the Palestinian and Israeli peoples, but also to peace and stability in the whole of the Middle East and the Eastern Mediterranean region.
7. **The trial of Mr. Azmi Bechara**, Member in the Israeli Knesset, is not justified under all circumstances, since he was defending the right of his people to seek equality and justice for his country.  
We consider the prosecuted Member of Parliament innocent, and find imperative his immediate release.