



Republic of Botswana

TELEGRAMS: DEFA
TELEPHONE : 3600700
TELEX : 2414 BD
Fax : 3913366

MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION
PRIVATE BAG 00368
GABORONE

PRESS RELEASE

BOTSWANA CONDEMNS THE ONGOING VIOLENCE ALONG THE GAZA-ISRAEL BORDER

Gaborone, 17th May 2018: The Government of the Republic of Botswana is gravely concerned about the deteriorating security situation in the Gaza Province following the relocation of the Embassy of the United States of America from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The loss of many lives and injuries of Palestinian demonstrators, as a result of this highly emotive issue, is greatly regretted. It will be recalled that Botswana has previously expressed concern about the United States of America's policy stance on the question of Jerusalem, and its potential for undermining the peace process between Israel and Palestine.

In this regard, Botswana fully associates herself with the Statement issued by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on 14th May 2018, expressing solidarity with the Palestinian people and calling for a lasting Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Government of Botswana therefore calls upon all Parties to the conflict to exercise restraint and to work towards normalisation of the situation. In particular, we wish to appeal to the Israeli Government to desist from the use of excessive force against the protestors.

Botswana, having diplomatic relations with both Israel and Palestine believes that a Two State solution remains paramount in the quest for a lasting solution to the Israeli and Palestinian conflict.

We urge the United Nations Security Council to work in unison to restore an environment of peace and stability, so that the many years of investment in the peace process can yield the intended results.

Contact - Public Relations, Research and Information Department

Tel: (267) 3600700 Fax: (267) 3913366

E-Mail: mofaic_prri@gov.bw

Website: www.mofaic.gov.bw

