

15 January 2009

**Statement of Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann,
President of the 63rd Session of the General Assembly,
at the 32nd Plenary Meeting of the 10th Emergency Special Session on the Illegal
Israeli Actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the Rest of the Occupied Palestinian
Territory**

Excellencies,

We meet today under the most urgent, indeed the most desperate, of circumstances. The crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, specifically in the Gaza Strip, has raged for far too long. Too many have died – especially, too many women and children have died. And too many UN workers have been killed and gravely injured, and too many United Nations buildings, including schools and hospitals, have been damaged and destroyed. In fact, just a few hours ago, while the Secretary-General was on an official visit in their country, the Israeli military bombed UNRWA headquarters in Gaza.

We here in United Nations headquarters have remained too passive for too long as the carnage continues. I am responding to the growing number of Member States, particularly those of the Non-Aligned Movement, who have demanded a resumption of the 10th Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly as soon as possible. Every day, we receive messages from Gaza and from around the world asking, indeed pleading, for the UN to stop the violence, protect civilians and attend to the humanitarian needs. Our business here today is urgent.

During this assault, more than 1,000 Palestinians have been killed, one-third of them children. More bodies remain buried under the rubble, out of reach of humanitarian workers because the shelling is too intense – the living would be killed trying to reach the dead. If this onslaught in Gaza is indeed a war, it is a war against a helpless, defenseless, imprisoned population.

The fact that Gaza's population is imprisoned – they cannot leave, they cannot run, they have nowhere to hide from air strikes, artillery, or naval attacks – is particularly important to us in the United Nations, keeping in mind our obligations under Article 1 of our Charter to defend international law.

Israel remains the occupying power in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the Gaza Strip, and it has specific obligations under the Geneva Conventions to protect the occupied population. Instead of providing protection as mandated by international law, the occupying power is denying this population, 80 percent of whom are already refugees and more than half of whom are children, the option to seek refuge and find shelter from the war. Gaza's civilians find themselves locked inside a lethal war zone behind a wall surrounding their densely populated territory. They have no means of escape.

We know the history of Israel's failure to protect the occupied Palestinian population. I will not repeat that history here. But we should keep in mind that under the Geneva Conventions, the obligations of an occupying power to provide safety – along with food, water, education, freedom of religion, and more – to the occupied population is no less, in fact is arguably greater than its obligations to protect its own citizens. When an occupying power fails in that obligation, then it becomes the responsibility of the international community as a whole, represented here in the United Nations, to provide that protection.

The Palestinians, as an unlawfully occupied population, enjoy the right of resistance within the constraints of international humanitarian law. The rocket attacks by Palestinians against Israeli towns are illegal. No one, not in Sderot or Ashkelon, not in Rafah or Beit Hanoun, should have to live in such fear.

It is a terrible irony that this onslaught in Gaza, what Israel calls its “war on terror,” has led to the deaths of – so far – 13 Israelis, ten of them soldiers, at least four by so-called “friendly fire.” A terrible irony because during the five months of the ceasefire last year, not a single Israeli was killed.

Already one year ago, well-known Israeli organizations were denouncing the actions of their own Government towards the civilian population of Gaza, whose very lives it was endangering, as a “crime against humanity”.

These Israeli organizations issued the following statement on 21 January 2008 (almost one year ago):

“We, the Israeli organizations signed below, deplore the decision by the Israeli Government to cut off vital supplies of electricity and fuel..., as well as essential foodstuffs, medicines and other humanitarian supplies, to the civilian population of Gaza. Such an action constitutes a clear and unequivocal crime against humanity.”

The identity of these organizations can be seen in Note III of Annex One which contains a legal analysis of Prime Minister's Olmert's statement rejecting Israeli compliance with Security Council Resolution 1860.

The violations of international law inherent in the Gaza assault have been well documented: Collective punishment. Disproportionate military force. Attacks on civilian targets, including homes, mosques, universities, schools.

I remind you, Excellencies, that last week an Israeli air strike against one of our schools, a United Nations school, killed at least 43 people. Many of them were children. And all of them were beleaguered and frightened families seeking shelter from bombs and air strikes. They sought shelter from the United Nations when their homes were bombed, when they were warned to flee an approaching bombing raid but had nowhere else to go, when they faced the most desperate decision any parents are ever forced to make – how to keep their children safe.

Those families turned to us, to the United Nations, and we failed in our obligation to keep them safe.

But there is still another violation – one in which we, as the United Nations, are directly complicit. The blockade of Gaza, which has now been going on for 19 months, has been directly responsible for the widespread humanitarian crisis in Gaza even before the current Israeli assault began. That blockade, imposed by the Occupying Power, is in violation of Article 33 of the Geneva Convention which prohibits collective punishment under any circumstances.

Yet the blockade has been endorsed, at least tacitly, by powerful parties grouped in the Quartet, placing this Organization in a dubious role and in violation of our obligations under the Charter and international law. The General Assembly, as the nerve center of the whole United Nations system, and certainly as its most representative organ, must always be vigilant in its defense of the United Nations Charter.

There appears to a presumption by some that if the Security Council is seized of a matter or has decided to respond to the current crisis in Gaza within the grouping of the Quartet or other Member States, that this body is bound, and must confine itself to supporting and following their lead. Yet in my capacity as President, in your individual capacity as Member States, and all of us together share both an individual and collective responsibility as the United Nations General Assembly to uphold the Charter and ensure compliance with UN resolutions and international law.

In assuming this office I made a solemn commitment and undertook as a priority of the 63rd session the democratization and revitalization of the General Assembly. While it is not my role to prescribe a solution or pretend to settle this long-standing conflict, it is my duty to remind Member States of their and our responsibilities and obligations under the law of the United Nations, and to call to their attention to relevant instruments, reports and findings to assist in the settlement of the dispute on the basis of international law.

It behooves us, then, to consider the implications of the UN's continued presence in the Quartet, and we should take into due consideration the counsel of our own judicial organs – the International Court of Justice, the Human Rights Council, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Special Rapporteurs.

In 2007 the Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Professor John Dugard, took note of the requirements of the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice regarding certain Israeli violations of international law. He noted that while the United States, the Russian Federation and the European Union, three of the four members of the Quartet, all had the right to ignore the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice, that the “position of the United Nations is, however, very different. The International Court of Justice is the judicial organ of the United Nations.”

Dugard went on to say that... “Moreover the General Assembly has by an overwhelming majority repeatedly given its approval to the Opinion. This means that it is now part of the law of the United Nations. As such the representative of the United Nations in the Quartet – the Secretary General or his representative – is in law obliged to be guided by the Opinion and to endeavor in good faith to do his or her best to ensure compliance with the Opinion. If the Secretary-General (or his representative) is

politically unable to do so he has two choices: either to withdraw from the Quartet or to explain to his constituency – ‘We the peoples of the United Nations’ in the language of the Charter – why he is unable to do so and how he justifies remaining in the Quartet in the light of its refusal to be guided by the law of the United Nations. The first course is possibly unwise at this time as this would deprive the United Nations of a role in the peace process. This makes the second course essential.”

Professor Dugard continues: “For 40 years the political organs of the United Nations, States and individuals have accused Israel of consistent, systematic and gross violations of human rights and humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. In 2004 the judicial organ of the United Nations, in its Advisory Opinion, affirmed that Israel’s actions in the Occupied Territory, do indeed violate fundamental norms of human rights and humanitarian law and cannot be justified on grounds of self-defense or necessity. If the United Nations is serious about human rights it cannot afford to ignore this Opinion in the deliberations of the Quartet, as it is an authoritative affirmation that Israel is in serious breach of its international commitments. Failure to attempt to implement, or even to acknowledge, an advisory opinion dealing with international humanitarian law and human rights law, brings the very commitment of the United Nations to human rights into question.”

Even without a new Advisory opinion, it is clear that the earlier judgment stands. Israel continues to violate international humanitarian law and human rights law.

We must look seriously at what John Dugard called ‘the very commitment of the United Nations to human rights’. Is it not incumbent upon us to rethink our role in the Quartet, to rethink whether the United Nations itself is, unwittingly, violating key tenets of international law and our own Charter? The UN plays a unique role in the international arena through defining and defending the international normative framework for securing and maintaining international peace. We must ask ourselves if it is not a conflict of interest for the United Nations to participate in the Quartet. Does not UN participation lend credibility to this ad hoc group that has shown itself willing to negotiate compromises that threaten to fundamentally weaken those norms?

It is time to change that. I convened this meeting today at the request of the 118 Member States that make up the Non-Aligned Movement. We meet today recognizing the obligations of the entire United Nations system, of which its most representative and democratic body is the General Assembly, to work, as Article 1 of our Charter defines our purpose, for universal peace, for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We are all fully aware that the Security Council passed resolution 1860 last week. But the relentless onslaught continues in Gaza. Gaza is ablaze. It has been turned into a real burning hell.

The Council called for a ceasefire – but the demand was undermined by the insistence that it be both “immediate” and “durable.” This is double-talk. The obligation for an immediate ceasefire is both unconditional and urgent. Our medium-term goal of a “durable” and lasting peace cannot be achieved without addressing the root causes of the conflict.

The resolution called for unimpeded humanitarian assistance – but it was undermined by the absence of a demand to end the now 19-month closure of Gaza’s border crossings by the occupying power in a blockade supported by some of the most powerful members of the Council itself. We all knew such a call, without implementation or enforcement, would be ignored with impunity.

When the Council passed resolution 1860, I stated that we would “closely analyze the resolution and determine whether it is serious, and contemplates the pertinent measures – both to ensure the immediate ceasefire and the unimpeded access to the humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people.”

Little analysis is needed to determine that the Council resolution has failed to bring about either a ceasefire or unimpeded humanitarian access. Obviously, it was never really meant to achieve those objectives. This is clearly not the fault of the majority of the Council members. It is due to the fact that there were some in the Council (and outside of it) bent on betraying their obligation to our Charter. Instead of supporting a strong, clear unequivocal demand for an immediate ceasefire, those forces succeeded in blocking such a demand, and instead allowing the military action to continue, which indeed seems to have been their purpose.

That result – ensuring that the diplomatic efforts allowed the military attacks to continue – matched perfectly the unambiguous goal of the occupying power. On January 4th, the Foreign Minister of Israel stated clearly that “the intensive diplomatic activity of the last few days aims to alleviate the pressure for a ceasefire, and to allow time for continuing the military operation.” I urge you to examine her words closely: she was engaging in diplomatic activities not to reach a quick end to the killing, but to the contrary, “to alleviate the pressure” to reach a ceasefire. That may be the Israeli government’s goal, but it is surely not mine. Nor can it be the goal of the United Nations – not the Security Council and not the General Assembly. Our goal can only be an immediate ceasefire. We must increase, not alleviate, the pressure to bring about that ceasefire.

So far, the Security Council resolution has been rejected by both sides, Israel and Hamas. According to reports, the Hamas rejection appears to be based primarily on the fact that the resolution did not call for lifting the blockade that has caused such devastation among the Gazan people for 18 months, even before the current military assault. While it should not be a basis for rejecting an immediate ceasefire, numerous United Nations and other humanitarian agencies, have recognized the long-term closure of Gaza’s border crossings as not only causing a humanitarian disaster, but as a clear violation of international law, particularly the Geneva Convention’s obligations on occupying powers to protect the occupied population.

The Israeli rejection is clear: The Prime Minister rejected explicitly and unequivocally any legitimacy or authority for the Security Council, stating that “the State of Israel has never agreed that any outside body would determine its right to defend the security of its citizens.” Israel is a Member State of the United Nations; as such, is it not obligated to accept and indeed implement Security Council decisions?

It seems to me ironic that Israel, a State that, more than any other, owes its very existence to a General Assembly resolution, should be so disdainful of United Nation’s resolutions. Prime Minister Olmert’s

recent statement disavowing the authority of Security Council Resolution 1860 clearly places Israel as a State in contempt of international law and the United Nations.

The foreign minister, dismissing the Council resolution altogether, asserted Israel's "right to self-defense." But if Israel's rejection is based on such a claim, it should recognize that according to Article 51 of the Charter, "measures taken by Members in the exercise of this right of self-defense shall be immediately reported to the Security Council and shall not in any way affect the authority and responsibility of the Security Council under the present Charter to take at any time such action as it deems necessary in order to maintain or restore international peace and security." Additionally, the right of self-defense lasts only "until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security."

The Security Council took the measure it deemed necessary with the passage of Resolution 1860; even if it had been valid, any Israeli self-defense claim terminated at that moment.

All serious efforts to bring about an immediate ceasefire are urgently needed, and I support them all. Numerous agencies of the United Nations, our key allies among the international humanitarian agencies, important human rights defenders around the world, are all calling for an immediate unconditional ceasefire. Regional groups and Member States are joining the call for an immediate ceasefire. People around the world – in the tens and hundreds of thousands – continue to take to the streets, including here in the Host Country of the United Nations as well as inside Israel, to demand an immediate ceasefire. We at the United Nations can do no less.

The Council may have found itself unable or unwilling to take the necessary steps to impose an immediate ceasefire – but outsourcing these efforts to one or two governments or through the Quartet does not relieve the Council of its own responsibilities under the UN Charter. The Council cannot disavow its collective responsibility. It cannot continue to fiddle while Gaza burns.

Passage of the Security Council resolution does not eliminate our responsibility. We in the General Assembly, who represent ALL the nations and peoples of the world, still have a corresponding individual and collective obligation of our own. And we will respond to that obligation.

And so, Excellencies, we come together today, in this 32nd meeting of the 10th Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly, to respond to this most urgent crisis. We are very late. The Governments of Member States that requested this meeting did not intend, and I did not convene this meeting to be a talk-fest, filled with passionate speeches and leading to no action. I convened this meeting in order to place the power and prestige of the General Assembly – the most representative and most democratic component of the United Nations – in motion towards two urgent demands, after which longer-term issues can be considered: an immediate, unconditional ceasefire and immediate unimpeded humanitarian access.

I know that you share my sense of urgency and our collective commitment to make good on our so-far unmet obligations to the occupied people of Gaza. We need serious and expeditious diplomacy, not false promises.

For the people of Gaza, the human catastrophe continues. Twenty days later, people continue to die. Our obligation is clear. We, the United Nations, must call for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire and immediate unimpeded humanitarian access. We, the United Nations, must stand with the people around the world who are calling, and acting, to bring an end to this death and destruction. We must stand with the brave Israelis who came out to protest this war, and we must stand with those in the frightened city of Sderot who called for “Another Voice” to answer the fear of rocket-fire with reconciliation and not war.

We must stand with the hundreds of thousands of people who have stopped the trains, petitioned their governments, poured into the streets around the world, all calling for an end to war. That is our obligation, our responsibility, our duty, as we work, mourning so many deaths, for an immediate ceasefire.

Of course it will be up to the members of the General Assembly as a whole to determine the resolution we should pass. But I believe that our resolution must reflect the urgency of this moment, the urgency of our commitment to end this slaughter. We do not have time for long complicated resolutions, recalling every previous position and reexamining every unfilled mandate. This is the moment for an emergency response.

I hope, and I believe, that our work today will indeed allow us to make good on our founding promise, now so desperately needed by the people of Gaza – and of Sderot – to end this scourge of war.

Thank you.



Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations

STATEMENT

BY

H.E. Ambassador Zahir Tanin

Permanent Representative of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to
the United Nations

at the Plenary meeting

of

The 10th Emergency Special Session on the Illegal Israeli Actions
in Occupied East Jerusalem and the Rest of the Occupied
Palestinian Territory

16 January 2009

NEW YORK

Mr. President, distinguished delegates,

We thank you, Mr. President, for giving us the opportunity to speak today. We commend your decision to reconvene the 10th Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly on Illegal Israeli Actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the Rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Certainly, what we are facing now in Gaza is an emergency of serious magnitude. Afghanistan and the Afghan people share Gaza's pain, and we stand in solidarity with those in Palestine dying, suffering and mourning.

Mr. President,

It has been three weeks since Israel launched their air and missile attacks in Gaza, but the violence has only continued to escalate. The fighting has been terrible in its ferocity, particularly towards innocent civilians. So far, over a thousand Palestinians lost their lives, and around four hundred of those were children. An additional five thousand people have been injured, many seriously, and again women and children are the majority. Israel has, in fact, systematically disregarded human rights throughout the conflict, in violation of international humanitarian and human rights law.

Despite these terrible casualties, humanitarian aid has been denied, supplies are not permitted to enter, and humanitarian workers are at constant risk of attack. Safe zones and civilian areas such as schools, mosques, and hospitals have been directly targeted. We join all member states in condemning the Israeli attack on the UNRWA compound yesterday, which demonstrates a fundamental lack of regard for the international obligations that bind Israel as a member of the United Nations. We commend the extraordinary efforts and dedication of UN agencies and staff under such deplorable conditions.

The impossibility of assistance has pushed an already severe humanitarian crisis to the limit. UN agencies report that basic necessities such as food, water, and cooking gas are becoming increasingly difficult to find. The terrified population of over 40,000 internally displaced persons is not permitted to leave, unable to find refuge.

But the current casualties do not even tell the full story. The ramifications of the fighting in Gaza are far-reaching. Each additional day of violence means more desperation, and the prospects for reconciliation and peace are fading.

For all these reasons, the situation in Gaza demands our immediate dedication. Common human decency demands no less.

Mr. President,

Afghanistan stands with the Security Council in condemning all violence directed against civilians, and in calling for the instantaneous implementation of Resolution 1860 and an immediate, fully-respected ceasefire leading to the full withdrawal of Israel from the Gaza strip

and a durable negotiated peace. In addition, humanitarian assistance and aid agencies must be allowed to reach those in need.

The resolution of this crisis must respect and abide by international human rights and humanitarian law. The Fourth Geneva Convention, to which Israel is a party, requires that civilians be protected during conflict, and Israel, in the position of occupying force, must respect its duties towards the civilian population of Gaza. The United Nations, in turn, must seek a solution that is in accordance to the Charter and consider the counsel and work of our own judicial entities: the International Court of Justice, the Human Rights Council, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Special Rapporteurs.

Afghanistan stands by member states in agreeing that the durable solution must be one in which two states, Israel and Palestine, live side by side in peace with secure and recognized borders. This is the only way to address the security concerns of all parties and allow peaceful coexistence.

Once a ceasefire is achieved, the effort to achieve a durable solution will require all of our efforts, especially the regional countries who are directly impacted by the conflict. We appreciate and commend the tireless efforts of Egypt and the League of Arab States to successfully mediate and push forward negotiations. In addition, the Palestinian Authority under President Abbas should have a central role in any process. The solution, like the problem, will need to include regional actors and international partners.

Mr. President,

We offer our full support to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and call for all parties to cooperate fully with him as he works to stop the tragedy unfolding before us. We join his call for “a unilateral declaration of ceasefire by Israel” to put an immediate end to the violence.

Today we can wait no longer; we must all act, and swiftly. Until a cease-fire is declared, there will be no end to the suffering of the people of Gaza. And once a cease-fire is declared, we must ensure that we have the political will to create a lasting, peaceful two-state solution.

I thank you, Mr. President.



الجزائر

ALGERIA

**Reprise de la dixième session d'urgence de l'Assemblée
générale des Nations unies**

Déclaration de :

**S.E Mr. Mourad Benmehidi
Ambassadeur, Représentant Permanent**

Au titre du point:

**« Mesures illégales prises par Israël à Jérusalem-Est occupée
et dans le reste du Territoire palestinien occupé »**

New York, le 15 Janvier 2009

Monsieur le Président,

Je voudrais, dès l'abord, vous exprimer la gratitude de ma délégation pour avoir accédé favorablement à la demande de l'Algérie et de la majorité des Etats membres de l'Organisation de convoquer la reprise de la 10^{ème} session extraordinaire d'urgence sur la Palestine. Votre décision, responsable et sage, prise en ce moment précis est une contribution inestimable à la défense de la crédibilité des Nations Unies et à La promotion des buts et principes de la Charte.

Ma délégation demeure convaincue qu'à l'issue de cette séance de la 10^{ème} session extraordinaire d'urgence, qui doit rester ouverte, le poids de la Communauté internationale, prise dans son ensemble, saura faire entendre raison à l'agresseur israélien qui a délibérément choisi de se mettre au ban des Nations civilisées.

Monsieur le Président,

Ma délégation voudrait exprimer devant cette assemblée l'indignation profonde du peuple et du Gouvernement algérien face à la barbarie inqualifiable à laquelle le monde assiste à GHAZA du fait de l'irréductibilité israélienne et de l'impunité dont il pense pouvoir jouir plus longtemps.

L'Algérie condamne de la façon la plus ferme l'agression israélienne et rejette de la façon la plus catégorique l'argument selon lequel cette agression sauvage, disproportionnée et en violation de la Charte, du Droit international, du droit international humanitaire et de la légalité internationale constitue un acte de légitime défense au sens de l'article 51 de la Charte.

L'Algérie tient à rappeler qu'avant même le déclenchement de l'agression israélienne, le territoire palestinien à Ghaza faisait l'objet d'un blocus illégal et inhumain qui généré une situation désastreuse qui a amené les Nations Unies à constater qu'aucun des Droits énoncés dans la Déclaration Universelle des Droits de l'Homme n'y était respecté au moment où le soixantième anniversaire de la Déclaration coïncidait avec celui de la NAKBA qui marque l'établissement de l'entité israélienne qui n'a cessé, depuis, de défier la Communauté internationale et de violer toutes les résolutions des Nations Unies la concernant, en premier lieu, la résolution de l'assemblée Générale 181 (11) du 29 novembre 1947 créant cette entité.

Monsieur le Président,

Il est temps que la Communauté internationale se penche sur les voies et moyens permettant de mettre un terme à l'arrogance et au mépris du Droit dont fait preuve Israël qui semble tenir pour acquis que l'impunité lui sera assurée en toutes circonstances.

Il est temps que ce comportement hors la loi soit traité comme tel et que soit mis en œuvre à l'encontre de ses auteurs et de leurs complices, l'arsenal dont la Communauté internationale dispose.

Après le scandale de Ghaza, la Communauté internationale ne doit plus craindre d'aborder le bien-fondé de l'appartenance d'Israël à l'Organisation des Nations unies. La Résolution de l'Assemblée Générale 273 (III) du 11 mai 1949 par laquelle cette entité a été admise au sein l'Organisation avait énoncé au paragraphe premier de son dispositif :« décide qu'Israël est un Etat pacifique qui accepte les obligations de la Charte, qui est capable de remplir lesdites obligations et disposé à le faire. » Somme nous aujourd'hui dans ce cas de figure ? la réponse va de soit : Israël est une entité belliciste et belliqueuse qui rejette les obligations de la Charte et n'est pas disposée à le faire ainsi que le déclarent ouvertement ses dirigeants aujourd'hui, et ainsi que le démontre son comportement de puissance occupante depuis au moins quarante ans.

Outre son rejet des obligations de la Charte, Israël a depuis lors démontré qu'il érigeait en politique d'Etat la violation du Droit International et du Droit International humanitaire, en particulier la quatrième convention de Genève de 1949, tous les instruments internationaux en matière des Droit de l'Homme et toutes les normes internationales en matière de protection des civils dans les conflits armés. Avec le carnage perpétré, ouvertement, à Ghaza depuis le 27 Décembre dernier, Israël entend maintenant défier les fondements même de la Justice Pénale internationale en érigeant le Crime contre l'Humanité et le Crime de guerre au rang de moyen de pression diplomatique dans l'impunité la plus totale.

L'Algérie salue les prises de position du Haut Commissaire des Nations Unies pour les Droits de l'Homme et la décision du Haut Conseil des Droits de l'homme de mettre sur pied une commission d'enquête indépendante pour établir les faits sur les violations massives des Droits de l'Homme à Ghaza.

Si la crédibilité des Nations Unies a pu être entamée en raison de l'incapacité, pour diverses raisons, du Conseil de Sécurité à imposer un arrêt immédiat de l'agression israélienne, celle-ci sera jaugée, à l'avenir, à l'aune de la lutte contre l'impunité à laquelle l'opinion mondiale associe le Statut de Rome de la Cour Pénale Internationale dont les promoteurs sont interpellés au même titre que les Nations Unies .

Monsieur le Président,

L'Algérie salue la déclaration que vous avez prononcée à l'ouverture de la séance de reprise de la 10^{ème} Session Extraordinaire d'Urgence.

Elle souscrit entièrement au souci que vous avez exprimé de voir l'Organisation des Nations Unies faire face à la situation gravissime à Ghaza dans l'unité de ses différents organes Assemblée Générale, Conseil de Sécurité et Secrétaire Général ensemble.

Après l'adoption par le Conseil de Sécurité de la Résolution 1860 (2009) du 8 janvier 2009, l'Algérie a considéré, à juste titre , que celle-ci constituait un pas qui restait en deçà des attentes de la Communauté internationale qui exige l'arrêt total de l'agression et le retrait des troupes israéliennes.

Respectueuse de la Charte, l'Algérie considère néanmoins que cette résolution doit être appliquée immédiatement et inconditionnellement.

Elle souscrit à cet égard au point de vue que vous avez exprimé, que partage le Secrétaire Général, sur la nécessité d'un cessez-le-feu immédiat qui ne doit pas être conditionné par l'aboutissement des efforts diplomatiques en cours qui méritent, cependant, d'être appuyés par la Communauté internationale.

Ma délégation voudrait, à cet égard, vous encourager à soumettre, pour son adoption par l'Assemblée Générale, un projet de résolution centré sur les deux préoccupations principales que vous avez exprimées : l'exigence d'un cessez-le-feu immédiat et inconditionnel et le rétablissement immédiat de l'accès humanitaire sans entrave d'aucune sorte.

C'est là le sens de notre réunion aujourd'hui, sous votre direction sage et avisée.

Je vous remercie.



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General Assembly

15 January 2009

Resumption of 10th Emergency Special Session

Statement by H E The Hon Robert Hill Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations

(Check against delivery)

Australia is deeply disturbed by the violence in the Gaza Strip and southern Israel.

Australia strongly supports UN Security Council resolution 1860's call for an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire. We support the resolution's recognition of the need to address arms smuggling and open border crossings. We also support the resolution's call for the unimpeded provision and distribution throughout the Gaza Strip of humanitarian assistance, and all efforts to improve the situation of civilians.

At this critical time, we believe the focus for all of us present at this session needs to be on supporting those diplomatic efforts underway to give practical effect to UNSCR 1860. Serious and intensive negotiations are ongoing. We welcome the Egyptian-French ceasefire proposal and the important role played by Egypt in hosting talks, as well as the efforts of others, including UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

A solution must be found to end Hamas's rocket attacks against Israel, which have led to the current crisis and which we condemn. It must also end arms smuggling into the Gaza Strip. This conflict has demonstrated once again the vital need for a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict. Australia remains strongly committed to that objective.

Australia is deeply concerned that, tragically, this conflict is profoundly affecting civilians. All parties should avoid actions which could result in unnecessary or increased suffering on the part of innocent civilians. Australia condemns any action by Hamas to deliberately endanger civilian lives.

We call on Israel to do all it can to ensure the safety of UN and humanitarian workers. It is also critical that Israel meets its obligations under international humanitarian law to the people of the Gaza Strip, and ensure that its people have access to basic goods, food, medical supplies and humanitarian assistance. We recognise and welcome Israel's establishment of 'pauses' for the delivery of humanitarian aid, and we encourage Israel to do everything within its power to improve humanitarian access and restore basic services.

On 1 January 2009, Australia announced an immediate commitment of \$5 million in additional assistance to the people of the Gaza Strip which will provide emergency food and medical supplies, as well as cash assistance to conflict-affected families. This builds on the doubling of Australia's assistance to the Palestinian people in 2008 to \$45 million. We stand ready to consider further assistance.

Statement by H E The Hon Robert Hill
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Australia to the United Nations

(Text against delivery)

Australia is deeply disturbed by the violence in the Gaza Strip and against Israel. Australia strongly supports UN Security Council resolution 1860's call for an immediate double and fully respected ceasefire. We support the resolution's recognition of the need to address arms smuggling and open border crossings. We also support the resolution's call for the unimpeded provision and distribution throughout the Gaza Strip of humanitarian assistance, and all efforts to improve the situation of civilians. At this critical time, we believe the focus for all of us present at this session needs to be on supporting those diplomatic efforts underway to give practical effect to UNSCR 1860. Serious and intensive negotiations are ongoing. We welcome the Egyptian-led initiative proposal and the important role played by Egypt in forming talks, as well as the efforts of others, including UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. A solution must be found to end Hamas's rocket attacks against Israel, which have led to the current crisis and which we condemn. It must also end arms smuggling into the Gaza Strip. This conflict has demonstrated once again the vital need for a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict. Australia remains strongly committed to that objective. Australia is deeply concerned that, tragically, this conflict is profoundly affecting civilians. All parties should do the utmost to ensure that any necessary or imminent military action on the part of Israel or Hamas is deliberately and rigorously limited to the



BANGLADESH

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Statement

By

Mr. Shabbir Ahmad Chowdhury
Deputy Permanent Representative
of Bangladesh to the United Nations

at the

32nd Plenary Meeting, 10th Emergency Special Session
of the United Nations General Assembly
on

Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the
Occupied Palestinian Territory

New York

15⁰⁸ January 2009

PERMANENT MISSION OF BANGLADESH TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement by Bangladesh on Israeli attacks in Gaza

Thank you Mr. President for the resumption of the Tenth Emergency and Special Session on "Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory." Given the grave humanitarian catastrophes incrementally and brutally being perpetrated by the Israeli Military Forces in the Gaza Strip, my delegation considers this session most timely and attaches great importance to it. We commend you Mr. President for your comprehensive statement, made in this house this morning.

Bangladesh delegation aligns itself with the statements made by OIC and NAM. In addition, we would like to highlight following points:

Mr. President:

Bangladesh strongly condemns the ongoing indiscriminate Israeli attacks in Gaza that is now entering into its 4th week. We are appalled by the scale of devastation and the deaths of innocent Palestinians including women and children caused by massive military attacks. The death toll has crossed 1000; thousands other are inflicted with severe injuries, mostly civilians. It is painfully reported that Gaza is running out of places to bury the dead. Killings of innocent Palestinian civilians are totally unacceptable under any excuse. Economic costs of the damage are billions.

Mr. President:

We can not and must not tolerate the unabated violation of international humanitarian law and international human rights law by the Israeli occupying forces. It is disconcerting to see that even the humanitarian workers are being killed by the Israeli attacks. We are utterly disturbed to learn that the universal symbol of unity and peace "the UN compound" is not safe from occupying forces. We strongly condemn these heinous actions of the Israeli government which are blatant violations of international law.

Mr. President:

Bangladesh calls for immediate halt of the Israeli attacks causing innumerable civilian deaths and massive destruction of infrastructures in the Occupied Territory. Israel must comply with the Security Council resolution 1860 adopted on 8th of January that called for an “immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire, leading to full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza.” The United Nations, in particular Security Council, must undertake the necessary measures to ensure full and effective implementation of the resolution 1860 immediately. Boarder crossing should be opened forthwith for free cross-boarder movement of persons and goods. Humanitarian workers must be guaranteed full and secured access to the Palestinian population who are in dire need of food, medicine, water, electricity and shelter, forthwith.

Mr. President:

Bangladesh reiterates its long-standing position that the continued occupation of Palestine by Israel is the root cause of violence, unrest and destabilization in the region. The people of Palestine are being denied of their fundamental right to self determination and the right to live freely in their own land. Millions of Palestinians are living in refugee camps, for generations, in abject poverty. We believe establishment of an independent Palestinian State with Jerusalem its capital is the only sustainable solution to this lasting conflict.

Mr. President:

We welcome the draft resolution A/ES-10/L.21 and strongly urge for its full implementation.

I thank you Mr. President.



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**DIXIEME SESSION EXTRAORDINAIRE D'URGENCE
DE L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE NATIONS UNIES**

INTERVENTION

DE

**M. JEAN-FRANCIS R. ZINSOU,
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.,**

(Seul le texte prononcé fait foi)

NEW YORK, LE 15 JANVIER 2009

Monsieur le Président de l'Assemblée Générale,

Depuis trois semaines, la Bande de Gaza est à feu et à sang du fait d'une opération de représailles de grande envergure lancée par la puissance occupante avec l'emploi disproportionné et indiscriminé de la force qui affecte gravement les populations civiles, ~~sciemment~~ ciblées à dessein. Le Bénin est très sensible à la souffrance des victimes de cette crise sans précédent.

Le droit des Peuples à l'auto-détermination est un droit inaliénable. Il en est de même pour le droit de tout Etat d'exercer la légitime défense, dans le strict respect des règles du droit international humanitaire, du droit international et des droits de l'homme.

La situation actuelle sur le terrain est en totale rupture avec ces règles et avec les principes élémentaires d'humanité. Les chiffres parlent d'eux mêmes : autour de 1000 morts et 5000 blessés. Aucune cause ne peut justifier ou rendre acceptables tant de dégâts humains, les attaques perpétrées intolérables contre les installations sociales des Nations Unies, et apparemment l'utilisation d'armes s'apparentant à celles proscrites par la Communauté internationale, contre des civils sans défense pris au piège des extrémistes de tous bords.

Le Bénin condamne vigoureusement toutes ces violations du droit humanitaire international. Il engage les Nations Unies à procéder aux investigations nécessaires pour situer les responsabilités sans complaisance.

Le Bénin exhorte vivement tous les pays qui ont une influence sur la situation au Proche Orient à faire tout ce qui est légalement en leur pouvoir pour faire cesser la violence aveugle exercée contre le Peuple Palestinien. A cet égard, le Bénin appelle à un respect scrupuleux de la Résolution 1860 (2009) adoptée le 8 janvier 2009, par le Conseil de Sécurité qui exige un cessez-le-feu immédiat, durable et pleinement respecté, un retrait des Forces Israéliennes de Gaza, et l'approvisionnement sans entrave ainsi que la distribution dans tout le territoire de l'aide humanitaire.

Après une crise d'une telle gravité, la Communauté internationale a l'impérieux devoir de faire en sorte que soient établis les fondements d'une paix durable dans la région, afin que cette situation ne se répète plus. A défaut d'obtenir la coopération des Parties, le Conseil de Sécurité devra user de tous les moyens à sa disposition pour mettre définitivement fin à ce conflit asymétrique. Il a trop duré et il prend une tournure qui met en péril un Peuple en péril auquel la communauté internationale doit protection.

Cela étant, le Bénin soutient les efforts engagés pour une solution diplomatique de la crise, en particulier le Plan Franco-Egyptien, ainsi que les objectifs de la tournée du Secrétaire Général

dans la région. Nous exhortons les parties prenantes à poursuivre sans relâche les négociations pour faire prévaloir la voie du dialogue et du compromis.

Les éléments du règlement définitif de la question palestinienne sont connus. La solution doit faire droit aux légitimes aspirations des uns et des autres, Israéliens et Palestiniens, qui ont vocation légitime à vivre chacun dans son Etat.

Le Bénin estime que la voie de règlement tracée à la Conférence d'Annapolis doit être appliquée pour traduire dans la réalité la vision de deux Etats vivant côte à côte en paix dans des frontières définies à la suite de négociations directes entre les Parties et internationalement reconnues et garanties.

Nous exhortons toutes les factions palestiniennes à travailler à surmonter leurs divergences pour rétablir leur unité d'action sous l'Autorité Palestinienne légitime. Car, la division affaiblit et dessert la cause palestinienne dans son ensemble tout en éloignant les perspectives d'un règlement négocié du conflit israélo – palestinien.

Nous engageons toutes les parties prenantes intervenant à un titre ou à un autre à tout faire de part et d'autre pour réactiver et maintenir un processus de paix dynamique et concluant qui puisse conduire à la réconciliation au Proche - Orient. La priorité doit être de faire cesser l'effusion de sang et de créer les conditions pour l'extinction de tous les foyers de tension au Moyen Orient, car nul n'ignore l'influence déstabilisatrice que la situation du Peuple palestinien exerce sur les relations internationales dans la région et au – delà au cours de ces dernières décennies.

Le Conseil de Sécurité devrait s'occuper avec efficacité et plus de rigueur de cette situation en faisant plein usage des moyens d'action à sa disposition pour obtenir la mise en œuvre effective de ses décisions. Il nous faut rompre définitivement la spirale la violence pour donner une chance à la paix.

Pour terminer ma délégation s'associe au projet de Résolution qui sera adoptée à la fin de cette séance de la dixième Session Extraordinaire d'urgence de l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies.

Je vous remercie.



BRAZIL

32nd Meeting of the Tenth Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly on the Illegal Israeli Actions in Occupied Jerusalem and the Rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

15 January 2008

**Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti,
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations**

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. President,

The words “appalling”, “desperate”, “unbearable” have been used by independent observers and UN officials to describe the situation in Gaza. The unprecedented nature of this crisis, its increasing gravity and the failure of the parties to the conflict to comply with Security Council Resolution 1860 (2009) make this session necessary and timely. We thank you for your initiative.

My delegation participated in the debate held last week in the Security Council on the Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question. On that occasion, I had the opportunity to extensively express Brazil’s views on the current crisis in Gaza and southern Israel. Yesterday, during the Security Council’s debate on protection of civilians in armed conflicts, Brazil called for full and immediate implementation of resolution 1860, especially an immediate ceasefire, the opening of crossings into Gaza and the resumption of efforts to achieve a negotiated solution to the conflict.

Today, we were deeply disturbed to learn of the Israeli attack to the UN compound - the third attack to a UN facility, after the shelling of UN schools used as safe havens last week - resulted in 45 deaths. We join the Secretary-General in expressing our shock and outrage. This ongoing violence cannot continue. Full accountability must be ensured.

The death toll in Gaza continues to climb at a staggering rate. It is now above 1,000, among whom an unacceptably high proportion of civilians. The number of injured exceeds 4,000. Civilians are terrorized, traumatized and feeling trapped and helpless in a deadly rage of violence and destruction.

The cessation of hostilities is the only answer to this horrific crisis. The killing must stop, and stop now.

Mr. President,

We commend the outstanding work done by OCHA under the leadership of Under-Secretary General John Holmes, and the admirable dedication of UNWRA in the most trying of circumstances. We are encouraged by the fact that UN humanitarian aid, briefly interrupted after convoys were fired at, could be resumed, after reassurances given by Israel were considered credible. Brazil has sought to contribute to this effort, by sending 14 tons of food and medicine.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Celso Amorim, has just concluded a visit to the region, where he spoke to leaders and his counterparts in Syria, Israel, Jordan, the Palestinian National Authority and Egypt. He left ever more convinced that an immediate ceasefire is imperative. It is the only way to avoid further loss of innocent lives and to allow for substantial and adequate provision of urgently needed assistance. The international community cannot allow Security Council Resolution 1860 (2009) to go unheeded while innocent civilians are being killed in large numbers, thousands are injured and Gaza’s infrastructure is destroyed. The credibility of our Organization and of its Security Council is at risk, with consequences that reach far beyond the present crisis. This Assembly must demand an immediate cease fire in clear and unconditional terms and the full implementation of Resolution 1860.

Thank you.

Rev. 1.



**PERMANENT MISSION OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**
771 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, NEW YORK, NY 10017

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. LATIF TUAH
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
TENTH EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION (resumed)**

New York, 16 January 2009

Check against delivery

Mr. President,

I would like to join others who have spoken before me to thank you for convening this meeting of great importance to respond to the current crisis in and around the Gaza Strip.

Brunei Darussalam is deeply concerned with the deteriorating situation in and around Gaza. The deaths of more than a thousand innocent Palestinians, and the injuries suffered by thousands more, highlight the gravity of the situation.

We add our voice in condemning the continued excessive use of force by Israel and call on all sides to exercise utmost restraint. The escalation of violence in Gaza has further deprived the Palestinian people that have already endured suffering due to the blockades.

These recent developments have undermined the gains that the international community has made to bring about a just, peaceful and permanent solution to the conflict.

Mr President,

The international community is called upon once again to act decisively and show leadership at this crucial juncture.

Security Council Resolution 1860 has sent a clear message for an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire; called for sustained reopening of the crossing points; urged for the provision of humanitarian assistance, without restriction, to those in need; and welcomed all regional and international efforts underway to achieve a comprehensive peace. This important resolution must be observed.

Let us also not lose sight of the root cause of this conflict, which is the suffering of Palestinian people to regain their lost homeland. In believing

that the Two-State solution is the only viable option in this conflict, Brunei hopes that all parties would be able to work towards this goal.

In this regard, we recognize the untiring commitment and readiness of member states which have come forth to help seek a negotiated solution.

Mr. President,

Brunei Darussalam reiterates its long-standing commitment to the rule of international law under the auspices of the United Nations and adds its voice to all those calling for utmost restraint by both sides.

Once again Mr President, we thank you for convening this special session, thus giving the opportunity for the wider membership of the United Nations to exchange views on the grave situation in Gaza, that would further help regional and international efforts to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the area.

Thank you.



**ASSEMBLEE
GENERALE**

REPRISE DE LA DIXIEME SESSION EXTRAORDINAIRE D'URGENCE

**MESURES ILLEGALES PRISES PAR ISRAEL A JERUSALEM-EST
OCCUPE ET DANS LE RESTE DU TERRITOIRE PALESTINIEN OCCUPE.**

**Déclaration de Son Excellence Monsieur
Paul Robert TIENDREBEOGO**

Ambassadeur,

Représentant Permanent Adjoint

New York, le 16 Janvier 2009

(Vérifier au prononcé)

0. Ma délégation vous remercie d'avoir accepté de convoquer cette session extraordinaire d'urgence, afin de permettre à l'ensemble des Etats membres de l'Organisation des Nations Unies de s'exprimer sur la grave crise qui secoue le Moyen Orient depuis trois semaines.

Monsieur le Président,

1. Le Burkina Faso voudrait réitérer sa vive préoccupation face à l'escalade de la violence à Gaza, comme il l'a fait dans le cadre du Conseil de sécurité depuis le déclenchement des hostilités. A ces occasions, le Burkina Faso a toujours exprimé sa ferme condamnation du recours à la force par les deux parties, notant le caractère disproportionné des frappes israéliennes. Aujourd'hui, le bilan est lourd, très lourd. Cependant, si nous déplorons les morts du côté israélien, force est de reconnaître que ce sont les populations civiles de Gaza qui paient le plus lourd tribut à la guerre.

2. Ma délégation tient à dire que, quels qu'en soient les motifs, les violations des droits humains et du droit humanitaire, à l'échelle de ce qu'il nous est donné de voir, sont inacceptables parce qu'injustifiables. C'est pourquoi, nous les condamnons, surtout lorsque nombre de ces victimes sont des femmes et des enfants.

3. Nous condamnons notamment le fait de prendre pour cibles des écoles, des hôpitaux, des Organes de presse et des locaux de l'ONU qui, dans cette situation de chaos généralisé constituent des abris de fortune pour les populations civiles. En aucun cas, cela ne peut servir la cause d'une quelconque victoire, encore moins de la paix.

4. Pour toutes ces raisons, nous exhortons les parties à assumer leurs responsabilités, notamment par le respect intégral et sans condition des Conventions internationales, en particulier la Quatrième Convention de Genève relative à la protection des civils en temps de guerre.

Monsieur le Président,

5. Humainement et moralement, personne ne peut rester indifférent face à la catastrophe de Gaza, dont la situation humanitaire était déjà alarmante du fait du blocus, ni aux attaques aux roquettes contre Israël.

6. C'est pourquoi, en tant que membre non permanent du Conseil de sécurité, le Burkina Faso a voté en faveur de la résolution 1860, avec la conviction qu' en dépit de ses insuffisances, de ses faiblesses et de son caractère tardif, elle offrait tout de même l'occasion au Conseil de sécurité de joindre sa voix à celles qui, à travers le

monde, ont exprimé leurs préoccupations, appelé à un cessez-le-feu immédiat et à une réaction urgente et appropriée sur le plan humanitaire.

Malheureusement, et cela est fort regrettable, les parties ont immédiatement rejeté la résolution, et ont continué à s'affronter sans merci.

7. L'urgence demeure cependant la même. Aucun effort ne doit-il être épargné pour que la résolution 1860, bien qu'imparfaite, puisse être effectivement mise en œuvre. A cet égard, nous saluons et soutenons toutes les initiatives en cours sur le plan diplomatique, tant pour arrêter la violence actuelle, que pour trouver une solution politique juste, durable et globale au conflit israélo-palestinien. Nous sommes particulièrement reconnaissants au Président Moubarak d'Égypte pour ses inlassables efforts qui, nous l'espérons, porteront rapidement des fruits. Le Secrétaire général de l'ONU mérite également notre appui inconditionnel, lui qui, depuis le début de la crise, n'a eu de cesse de faire appel à la raison et à la responsabilité d'Israël et du Hamas, et à la solidarité internationale à l'égard des populations civiles.

Monsieur le Président,

8. Obtenir le cessez-le-feu sera une chose, arriver à le maintenir durablement en sera une autre. A cet égard, l'idée de mettre en place un mécanisme international de surveillance de ce cessez-le-feu et des autres dispositions de la résolution 1860, mérite d'être considérée avec la plus grande attention. Il nous faut également, et dès à présent, mobiliser toutes les bonnes volontés en vue de la reconstruction et du relèvement économique de Gaza dévasté.

9. Pour ce qui est des perspectives, le Burkina Faso a toujours été en faveur de la solution des deux États, Israël et la Palestine, vivant côte à côte dans la paix et la sécurité. Tous les efforts doivent converger vers cet objectif qui nous semble-t-il est le seul garant d'une solution juste, durable et globale au conflit.

Je vous remercie.

*INTERVENCIÓN DEL EMBAJADOR EDUARDO GALVEZ
REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE ALTERNO
DE CHILE ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS
EN LA DÉCIMA SESIÓN ESPECIAL DE EMERGENCIA DE LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL DE
NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EXAMINAR LAS MEDIDAS ILEGALES ISRAELÍES EN LA JERUSALÉN
ORIENTAL OCUPADA Y EL RESTO DEL TERRITORIO PALESTINO OCUPADO*

Sr. Presidente,

La actual situación en Gaza es absolutamente insostenible e inaceptable, y se ve seriamente agravada después de los acontecimientos de ayer, al ser bombardeadas las oficinas de Naciones Unidas en esa ciudad.

Dichos ataques no tienen ninguna justificación y son absolutamente condenables, especialmente cuando el Secretario General de Naciones Unidas se encuentra en la zona en un intento de lograr un cese al fuego.

Chile lamenta profundamente el uso desproporcionado de la fuerza por parte de Israel en los territorios palestinos como también el lanzamiento de cohetes desde la franja de Gaza hacia Israel.

Desde siempre, y en esta oportunidad lo reitera una vez más, Chile ha apoyado todos los esfuerzos tendientes a una paz duradera, estable y justa para las partes, con un especial énfasis en el respeto de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas, de los derechos humanos, del derecho internacional humanitario y de las correspondientes resoluciones de la Organización.

Hace sólo seis días el Consejo de Seguridad aprobó la resolución 1860 (2009), en la que se hacía un llamado al cese inmediato al fuego. Chile hace un llamado a las partes involucradas a respetar los términos de esta resolución y a que cesen inmediatamente las hostilidades. Esta resolución constituye un legítimo y efectivo recurso multilateral para la superación de la beligerancia y

UNION DES COMORES

MISSION PERMANENTE AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES

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Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies Dixième session extraordinaire d'urgence (reprise)

Mesures illégales prises par Israël à
Jérusalem-Est occupée et dans le reste
du Territoire palestinien occupée

Intervention prononcé par S.E.M
Mohamed TOIHIRI,
Ambassadeur, Représentant
permanent de l'Union des Comores
Auprès des Nations Unies

New York, 16 janvier 2009

Monsieur le Président
Excellences
Mesdames et messieurs

- 1- Ma délégation remercie le Président de l'Assemblée, S.E.M Miguel D'Escoto pour avoir saisi l'horreur et l'urgence de la situation à Gaza et avoir convoqué cette session extraordinaire.
- 2- Ceci ne nous étonne pas quand on connaît l'engagement de l'homme pour les causes justes, pour la défense du faible contre le superpuissant, pour la défense du droit contre le non-droit, pour la défense de la justice contre l'injustice.
- 3- Ma délégation fait sienne les déclarations du Maroc au nom du Groupe arabe, du Sénégal, de Cuba au nom des non-alignés, et de celle du Rwanda qui va venir au nom du groupe africain. *de l'Uganda au nom de la Conférence Islamique*
- 4- Fidele à sa position, les Comores soutiennent bien sûr le peuple palestinien dans sa lutte juste et légitime.....
- 5- Je serai bref car tout ce qui devait être dit a été dit mais tout ce qui devait être fait n'a pas été fait par rapport à la situation à Gaza.
- 6- C'est pour cela que nous nous demandons combien de temps encore, la communauté internationale va accepter l'inacceptable ? Pardoner l'impardonnable ? Excuser l'inexcusable ? Trouver des excuses au comble de l'horreur en voyant massacrer des innocents, massacre de bébés, d'enfants et de femmes ?
- 7- Oui 1/3 des victimes de cette hécatombe sont des enfants.
- 8- Combien de temps encore la communauté internationale va assister, impuissante, à l'horreur quotidienne de l'hécatombe dont est victime la population civile de Gaza ?

9- Comment l' une ~~armée~~ des plus puissantes armées du monde peut-elle se glorifier de sa force lorsqu'elle n'a en face d'elle une population civile désarmée ?

10- Combien de temps la communauté internationale va-t-elle encore assister, impuissante, aux bombardements de ce qu'il y a de plus neutre et de plus sacré, notamment les bâtiments des journaux, les hôpitaux, les écoles, les bâtiments des Nations Unies et les lieux de culte ?

11- Combien de temps encore allons-nous accepter l'utilisation d'une force de guerre brutale disproportionnée et l'utilisation des bombes au phosphore contre une population civile constituant la majorité des victimes ?

12- Combien de temps encore nos consciences vont-elles continuer à être torturées par le spectacle de la violation quotidienne par Israël de la convention de Genève relative à la protection des civils en temps de guerre ?

13- Combien de temps encore allons-nous accepter qu'un pays continue à mépriser les résolutions de la communauté internationale ?

14- Nous pensons que trop c'est trop. Le comble de l'horreur est atteint.

15- Aussi nous, les Comores, demandons :

- L'application de la résolution 1860 du conseil de Sécurité (jan 2009)
- Un cessez-le feu immédiat
- Le retrait immédiat des troupes israéliennes de Gaza
- La levée du blocus imposé au territoire qui est la cause principale de la crise
- L'ouverture des points de passage
- La mise en place d'une commission internationale pour enquêter sur les violations du droit international à Gaza et du droit humanitaire international
- Un effort considérable de la communauté internationale pour contribuer à la reconstruction rapide de Gaza
- Et ^{Saluons} remercions les pays qui se sont déjà engagés à apporter une aide aux Palestiniens

Je vous remercie.



**United Nations General Assembly
Tenth Emergency Special Session (resumed)
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory
16 January 2009**

**Statement delivered by Ambassador Minas Hadjimichael, Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations**

Mr. President,

Cyprus fully aligns with the statement delivered yesterday by the Presidency of the European Union.

As expressed by so many member States here, Cyprus is also gravely concerned, both for the situation itself and the lack of respect for and implementation of UNSCR 1860. We regret to empirically confirm yet again, the shortcomings of our system of collective security.

We condemn the absence of a ceasefire, the excessive and disproportionate use of force by Israel, all acts of violence, the unjustifiable number of civilian casualties, and the dire humanitarian situation in which Gaza continues to find itself.

We strongly condemn Israel's shelling of United Nations Headquarters in Gaza yesterday and the attacks against UNRWA schools last week.

We stress the paramount importance of respecting international law, in particular international humanitarian law, and call for an impartial inquiry into allegations of violations of international law.

We affirm the right of all civilians to live in safety and security.

We welcome the periodic opening of humanitarian corridors but have witnessed on the ground the inadequacy of this measure to ensure provision of the necessary humanitarian assistance and relief.

We urge for the withdrawal of all Israeli forces from Gaza, we reiterate that Gaza will be an integral part of the Palestinian state and express the hope that the peace process will be revived despite the damage it will undoubtedly sustain through the ongoing military operation.

Lastly, Mr. President, we support the ongoing efforts by the United Nations Secretary-General to ensure implementation of resolution 1860 by all parties and bring about an immediate ceasefire, as well as other efforts to this end, such as the Egyptian and French initiatives.

Thank you.



Tenth Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly
on
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the
Occupied Palestinian Territory

Statement by
Mr. René Dinesen
Deputy Permanent Representative of Denmark
to the United Nations

New York
Friday, 16 January 2009

Check against delivery

E-mail: nycmis@um.dk
www.missionfnnewyork.um.dk/en

Mr. President,

Denmark calls for an immediate, sustainable and durable ceasefire. The ceasefire must include elements that provide for the necessary security for both Israel and for the Palestinians. We commend the intense international efforts to secure a ceasefire, especially the Egyptian-led efforts and efforts by the UN Secretary General in the region. Denmark reiterates its full support for UNSCR 1860.

Denmark fully acknowledges the right of Israel to defend itself against rockets and terrorist attacks. Israel has according to the UN Charter a right to self-defence. Such self-defence must be carried out within the limits laid out by – and in compliance with – humanitarian law. Special caution must be taken towards civilians and civilian casualties must be avoided.

By initiating the conflict with the cynical and condemnable barrage of rockets from civilian neighborhoods in Gaza into civilian neighborhoods in Israel, Hamas has brought enormous suffering and pain on the Palestinian people in Gaza.

Mr. President,

Denmark is deeply concerned about the civilian suffering in Gaza. And protests against the incidents where humanitarian aid, health facilities and schools have been hit, including the latest incident with the attack on the UNRWA compound.

It is of the utmost importance that Israel does everything possible to improve the humanitarian situation and secure unhindered access and distribution of aid.

Mr. President,

Our main priority now should be to secure and support an immediate ceasefire leading to Israeli withdrawal and to improve the humanitarian situation. However, we should also think about the challenges ahead: Reconstruction in Gaza, opening of borders and prevention of weapons' smuggling. And an even bigger effort in getting the peace process back on track aiming at the necessary two-state solution.

Thank you.



ECUADOR

Misión Permanente ante las Naciones Unidas

**INTERVENCIÓN DE LA EMBAJADORA
MARIA FERNANDA ESPINOSA
REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL ECUADOR
ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS**

**X REUNION EXTRAORDINARIA DE URGENCIA DE
LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL DE NACIONES UNIDAS
SOBRE LAS MEDIDAS ILEGALES TOMADAS
POR ISRAEL EN JERUSALEN-ESTE OCUPADO
Y EN EL RESTO DEL TERRITORIO PALESTINO
BAJO OCUPACIÓN**

Nueva York, 15 de Enero de 2009

** Verificar contra lectura*

Señor Presidente,

Mi delegación quiere expresarle su agradecimiento por haber respondido positivamente al pedido que hiciera el Movimiento de Países No Alineados para convocar a una Sesión Emergente de la Asamblea General, dada la crítica situación en Medio Oriente y el incumplimiento de la Resolución 1860 del Consejo de Seguridad por parte de Israel.

Hace más de 60 años, mi país participó en la creación de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas con el propósito de mantener la paz y la seguridad internacionales, prevenir y eliminar las amenazas o quebrantamientos a la paz y lograr en definitiva la solución de los conflictos por medios pacíficos de conformidad con el derecho internacional.

Esta vocación, se encuentra reflejada en la nueva Constitución Política del Ecuador cuyo artículo 416, propugna la solución pacífica de las controversias y los conflictos internacionales, y rechaza de manera enfática, la amenaza o el uso de la fuerza como mecanismo para resolverlos.

Lamentablemente, a pesar de ser un miembro de esta organización y signatario de las Convenciones de Ginebra y sus Protocolos Adicionales, Israel continúa privilegiando la acción militar al diálogo y a la solución pacífica, violando de manera flagrante los principios fundamentales del derecho internacional público y del derecho internacional humanitario.

La comunidad internacional, representada por esta Organización y sus diferentes órganos, no puede dejar un solo día de alzar su voz de protesta y condena a Israel, por la ofensiva militar emprendida desde hace 20 días en el territorio ocupado de Palestina y especialmente en la Franja de Gaza, que ha causado la muerte de más de mil palestinos, la mayor parte de los cuales son civiles, 280 niños y más de 4000 heridos, habiendo llegado incluso a atacar una escuela y un convoy identificado con el logotipo de las Naciones Unidas.

Señor Presidente,

El Gobierno y el pueblo del Ecuador se solidarizan una vez más, con todas las víctimas inocentes de la desproporcionada agresión israelí y reitera su profunda preocupación por la crisis humanitaria que se vive en la zona, debido al execrable bloqueo de los pasos fronterizos hacia y desde la franja de Gaza que impiden el libre acceso de la ayuda internacional, incluidos alimentos y medicinas, así como la provisión normal de combustible y electricidad.

En este sentido, mi país se une a la declaración hecha por el Movimiento de los No Alineados, el 13 de enero de 2008, a través de la cual se hace un llamado al cumplimiento inmediato de la Resolución 1860 del Consejo de Seguridad, especialmente en lo relativo al "cese al fuego inmediato, durable y plenamente

respetado, seguido por una retirada completa de las fuerzas israelíes de Gaza" así como en relación a las medidas para atender las urgentes necesidades humanitarias y económicas de la población palestina, incluyendo la apertura permanente de los puestos fronterizos de Gaza y la garantía del libre acceso a la ayuda humanitaria y otras provisiones básicas.

Asimismo, el Ecuador reitera su apoyo total a la Resolución sobre "Las graves violaciones de los derechos humanos en el territorio ocupado de Palestina particularmente debido al reciente ataque israelí contra la Franja ocupada de Gaza", adoptada recientemente por el Consejo de Derechos Humanos, en la cual, entre otros, se urge a las partes a respetar las reglas del Derecho Internacional de los Derechos Humanos y el Derecho Internacional Humanitario y se convoca a una protección internacional de la población palestina y a una acción internacional urgente para poner fin a las graves violaciones cometidas por Israel en el territorio palestino.

Señor Presidente,

Podríamos iniciar un largo debate sobre la interpretación jurídica de los artículos 11 y 12 de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas relativos a la capacidad de esta Asamblea General para tomar decisiones o hacer recomendaciones sobre situaciones que pudieran poner en peligro la paz y la seguridad internacionales. Sin embargo, el mundo espera mucho más de esta organización y es por ello que mi delegación desea hacer un llamado para que todos los órganos del sistema de Naciones Unidas, cumplan y hagan cumplir dentro del marco de sus respectivas competencias, uno de los propósitos fundamentales por los cuales fueron creados, como es el respeto a la vida humana.

En este sentido, mi país considera que esta Asamblea debe pronunciarse de manera firme y enfática, y por ello, el Ecuador se encuentra dispuesto a apoyar una decisión tendiente a la efectiva implementación del cese al fuego en la franja de Gaza, a una urgente atención de la crisis humanitaria que sufre la población palestina en dicha zona como consecuencia de la ofensiva militar perpetrada por Israel desde hace 20 días, así como a una profunda investigación, juzgamiento y sanción a todos los responsables de los crímenes de lesa humanidad cometidos en contra de la población civil en Gaza.

Cualquier solución integral que permita alcanzar una paz duradera en el Medio Oriente debe estar enmarcada en el más estricto respeto del derecho internacional y en un compromiso permanente de no agresión y reconocimiento, que incluya el retiro de Israel de los territorios palestinos ocupados desde 1967 y el establecimiento de un Estado Palestino independiente con Jerusalén Este como su capital.

Para ello, esta Asamblea General, el Consejo de Seguridad y todos los demás órganos competentes del sistema, deben aplicar las medidas de presión necesarias a fin de que se cumplan todas y cada una de las resoluciones y decisiones adoptadas a través de décadas con relación a la cuestión palestina y ofrecer de esta manera, una oportunidad para el desarrollo actual y futuro de las poblaciones involucradas.

La opinión pública mundial está a la espera de una respuesta contundente de esta Organización y mi país está dispuesto a brindar su colaboración y apoyo en la construcción de toda iniciativa encaminada hacia este objetivo.

Muchas Gracias



EGYPT

مصر

The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York

بعثة مصر الدائمة
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

**Statement by
H.E. Ambassador Maged Abdel Aziz
Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt
To the United Nations**

**Before
The Tenth Emergency Special Session (resumed)
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem
and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

**New York
January 15, 2009**

Check against delivery

Mr. President,

I would like to start my statement by expressing Egypt's appreciation to your kind initiative to call for the convening of the Resumed Tenth Emergency Special Session on the Israeli Illegal Practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in a response to several demands presented by leaders and head of states from varied geographical and political groups. I would like also to express our support to the statements of Morocco on behalf of the Arab Group, Cuba on behalf of the Non Alignment Movement and Uganda on behalf of the Group of Islamic States, and to thank the Secretary General for his swift and active endeavor from day one of the crisis and his current visit to the Middle East, starting by Egypt, pushing for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1860 and the achievement of ceasefire.

The resumption of the Tenth Emergency Special Session on the Israeli illegal practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory comes in a dangerous time where the Gaza Strip witnesses a continuation of the Israeli aggression on the Palestinian People despite the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1860, which calls on both Israeli and Palestinian parties to stop the ongoing humanitarian tragedy, indicating number of main clauses in response to the Arab Ministerial Committee, represented in: the immediate and durable ceasefire leading to the full withdrawal of the Israeli forces, the lifting of siege, the sustained opening of the crossing points to let humanitarian and economic assistance get through, to reduce pressure of the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, and to establish a mechanism for the protection of the Palestinian Civilians, to monitor the implementation of cease fire by both parties and to facilitate movement through the crossing points, in addition to the support of international and regional initiative aiming at achieving this, on top of which the Egyptian Initiative aiming at resorting calm and re-launching a credible and serious peace process.

The resumption of the General Assembly Tenth Emergency Special Session comes together with Egypt's persistent endeavors to implement the initiative launched by H.E. President Hosni Mubarak, in parallel with the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1860, carrying out Egypt's historical responsibility towards the peace process and the brother Palestinian people, and endeavoring for the needed complementary between international and regional efforts aiming at stopping the blood effusion in the Gaza Strip and providing the necessary arrangements and guaranties to implement Security Council Resolution 1860, which welcomed the Egyptian initiative and efforts in all fields.

The Egyptian initiative aims to address seriously and swiftly the fierce humanitarian situation that civilians suffers on the ground, through exerting efforts on three main access: First, the agreement of Israel and the Palestinian factions to an immediate ceasefire for a specified period to allow the opening of corridors for humanitarian relief assistance and to permit the pursuit of efforts towards a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire. Second, calling on both Israeli and Palestinian parties to meet immediately to conclude arrangements and guaranties to prevent the recurrence of the present escalation and to address its causes. Third, calling on the Palestinian Authority and all Palestinian factions to respond with efforts to bring about Palestinian reconciliation under the auspices of Egypt. Egypt continues its intense negotiations with both Israeli and Palestinian sides to start the implementation of its initiative in the nearest possible, to spare blood and to break the closed cycle of violence and military activities.

Mr. President,

The Arab group referred from the first day of the Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip to the Security Council, which expressed from the outset a clear international will demanding the halt of aggression in a press statement calling unanimously for ceasefire. The Security Council re-expressed the above-mentioned will in Resolution 1860. The Security Council adopted Resolution 1860 by fourteen in favor and one abstention, but the United States, which absented, emphasized clearly in an explanation of vote after the vote by the Secretary of State its commitment to the resolution and support to the immediate ceasefire and the regional ongoing efforts.

Despite that the Security Council Resolution realizes only the minimum of the Arab demands, we welcomed its adoption on the Arab level, as an important step leading to the balanced implementation of numerous mutual commitments, first the immediate ceasefire from both sides. Today we renew, from this tribune, our full support to Security Council Resolution 1860 and our call for its implementation and exerting urgent efforts to achieve the immediate halt of violence and military activities and to re-open permanently the crossing points according to the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access between the Palestinian Authority and Israel, as well as the permit of immediate access for all forms of humanitarian and economic assistance to Gaza, in order to keep the calm and to prevent recurrence to the present situation and to move effectively towards a comprehensive and credible peace process bases on the vision of the two states solution, relevant United Nations resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative of 2002.

Arab and international frustration is mounting everyday in light of the thousands of Palestinians falling victim to the massacre carried out by the Israeli war machine. In addition, the Security Council stands incapable of putting an end to the killing of innocent people, the destruction of infrastructure in the Gaza Strip and of providing the necessary protection to United Nations premises in Gaza. This is in particular with regard to the UNRWA premises, the humanitarian assistance storage facilities and schools, which Israel targets in defiance of the international organization and its collective will. All this makes it incumbent on the United Nations, in particular the Security Council, the General Assembly, and the Secretary General to unify efforts to ensure the full and honest implementation of the clauses of Security Council Resolution 1860, in order to preserve the organization's credibility, to strengthen its role in protecting the Palestinian people and in pressuring Israel to cease its violations of international law and international humanitarian law, and defying the will of the international community.

The pretext of self-defense does not justify Israel using excessive and disproportionate military force and internationally banned weapons against Palestinian civilians, particularly in light of the stipulations of international law and international humanitarian law regarding the safety and protection of civilians during war times. This also does not justify the killing of children in UNRWA schools, and does not justify bombing reporters and media locations with the aim of preventing them from transmitting the real picture of the brutal acts that Israel is carrying out. Therefore, in light of the international consensus that strives to invigorate the concept of "the responsibility to protect" based on paragraphs 138 and 139 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document. The application of this concept should be extended to include the civilians of the Palestinian people under occupation. In accordance with the Security Council resolution, we should work towards establishing an international force to protect the Palestinian people in Gaza, monitor the cease-fire on both sides and to facilitate movement through the crossings. This should be in complimentarity with the Human Rights Council's decision of the 12th of this month that calls for an immediate and just investigation of the international crimes that have been committed and bringing the perpetrators to trial.

Accordingly, Mr. President we call on the General Assembly to convey a clear and strong message in support of Security Council Resolution 1860. We also request that a draft resolution be presented by the President of the General Assembly that reflects the support of all Member States to the Security Council

resolution, the efforts aimed at implementing it, and the full compliance of both Parties and member states to what it contains. We fully trust that the General Assembly will shoulder its responsibility and adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize through this forum that Egypt, which opened the door to peace in the Middle East, and supported the Palestinian cause from the beginning will continue to support the Palestinian people in order to overcome their predicament and to counter the grave challenges facing them internally and externally. This includes achieving Palestinian reconciliation, as a central goal to overcome these challenges and to agree on a clear political horizon that contributes to international and regional efforts to stop the aggression. This aims at creating the appropriate circumstances to push forward the peace process in order to establish the independent State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital on the West Bank and Gaza Strip territory, which constitute the land of the independent Palestinian States. One people will live on this land and they are the Palestinian people with all their factions and political, ideological and conceptual affiliations. We fully trust that the international community represented in the General Assembly will support our efforts and the efforts of the Security Council and other active parties in order to achieve that goal.

Thank you,

Paula Parviainen
Minister Counsellor
Finland

Mr President,

Finland fully aligns itself with the EU statement delivered earlier by the Czech Republic.

Mr. President,

I join my colleagues in their calls for an immediate and sustainable ceasefire that is fully respected by both parties. It is paramount that rocket fire into Israeli cities stops and Israeli troops withdraw from Gaza leading to a normal opening of the crossings into Gaza and **normalization of life for all citizens**. Security Council resolution 1860 should be implemented fully **and in all its aspects without any further delay**.

We must ensure quick and **safe** delivery of humanitarian aid to the population of Gaza. **We wish to reiterate that facilitating humanitarian operations is an obligation for all parties to conflict under international humanitarian law.** The suffering of civilians, particularly children, is intolerable. Finland therefore condemns Israel's shelling of the Headquarters of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in Gaza ~~and all attacks against civilian targets~~. This has further aggravated the already dire humanitarian situation of the civilians in Gaza. **To**



Permanent Mission of Germany
to the United Nations

Statement

by
H.E. Mr. Thomas Matussek
Permanent Representative of Germany
to the United Nations

at the Tenth Emergency Special Session on Palestine
of the General Assembly

New York, 16 January 2009

(Check against delivery)

Mr. President,

We are witnessing a dramatic humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip. Germany deplores the high number of civilian casualties and the suffering of all civilians caused by the ongoing escalation of violence. Germany repeats its call for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire. Foreign Affairs Minister Steinmeier has just come back from a second visit to the region within in a week. The efforts of the German Foreign Minister aim at supporting ongoing initiatives to reach a permanent and lasting ceasefire; a ceasefire that allows for the immediate access of humanitarian aid and guarantees the security of both Israel and the Palestinian people. There must be an unconditional halt to rocket attacks by Hamas on Israel and to the smuggling of weapons into the Gaza Strip as well as to Israeli military action. The cessation of fighting should allow for lasting and normal opening of all border crossings, as provided for in the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access. The European Union has repeatedly stated its readiness to re-dispatch its EUBAM-mission to Rafah to enable its re-opening, in cooperation with Egypt, the Palestinian Authority and Israel. Germany remains willing to contribute to this crucial mission.

Germany warmly welcomes the initiative presented by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and makes every effort to support it, especially through German expertise in the field of border management. We welcome the talks in Cairo and hope that they will soon lead to a ceasefire and to first concrete steps for permanent and lasting arrangements.

Mr. President,

The alarming humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip calls for immediate action: Food, urgent medical supplies and fuel must be distributed to the people in need. Safe evacuation of the injured must be allowed and immediate access of humanitarian workers should be made possible through the opening of crossing points. Germany welcomes the daily temporary humanitarian ceasefires and calls on both sides to continue to respect those daily ceasefires in order to allow for humanitarian access. Germany has stepped up its assistance for the people in need by contributing 11 Mio € to the humanitarian relief efforts.

The Israeli shelling of the UN compound in the Gaza strip is unacceptable and represent a dangerous escalation; we demand that the facts of this incident be clarified.

Finally, let me stress that Germany sees the urgent need to step up the peace process. We are convinced that there is only a political solution to the current crisis. The solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict must be based on the process set out in Annapolis and on the establishment of an independent, democratic and viable Palestinian State in the West Bank and the Gaza **Strip** existing side by side with Israel in peace and security. Work must be carried out, notably on the basis of the Arab peace initiative, to deal with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in a comprehensive and operational manner. We welcome and support the efforts by Egypt and the Arab League aiming at inter-Palestinian reconciliation.

Thank you.



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**United Nations General Assembly
Tenth Emergency Special Session**

**ILLEGAL ISRAELI ACTIONS IN OCCUPIED EAST JERUSALEM
AND THE REST OF THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY:
DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/ES-10/L.21) [5]**

**Statement by
Ambassador John Mourikis
Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations**

**NEW YORK
Friday, January 16, 2009**

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Greece welcomes the initiative undertaken by the President of the General Assembly to call this emergency meeting on this very sensitive and important issue.

At the outset, I would like to state that Greece fully aligns itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic on behalf of the European Union.

We have been deeply concerned, from the very beginning for the present crisis, by the tremendous humanitarian disaster inflicted on innocent Palestinian civilians by the escalation of violence, by the tragic events that are posing an imminent danger to the stability of the whole region.

We would like to express our deep and profound sorrow for the victims and to stress our belief that no solution can be found and no peace can be achieved, as long as violence, atrocities and attacks on civilians persist.

We strongly believe that on this crisis, the International Community should speak with one voice, condemning all acts of violence that result to the loss of life of innocent people. We fully support Security Council Resolution 1860 and we call on all sides to work immediately and constructively for its full implementation. We recall that no military solution can prevail in Gaza, nor any security interests can ever be safeguarded by violence and terror.

The immediate ceasefire is the first step towards this direction.

We believe that the peace process should be intensified. In this regard, we fully support the comprehensive process launched in Annapolis, the most recent initiative of Presidents Sarkozy and Mubarak, as well as the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The International Community should spare no effort to bring about a just, viable and long due solution to this problem.

When faced with this tragic humanitarian situation in Gaza, we should do our utmost in assisting the innocent civilian population. Greece has been among the very first countries to send humanitarian aid to the region, and we stand ready to contribute even further.

Mr. President,

We believe that there must be an end to this vicious circle of violence, which has tremendous cost in innocent human lives and risks to destabilize the whole region.

We reiterate our strong condemnation of all acts of violence and terror, and those who support them. We also strongly condemn and deplore the targeting and bombing, by the Israeli Forces, of civilian infrastructure, UN buildings and media facilities.

The diplomatic efforts should continue and should be intensified as the only means to bring about results in defusing the crisis and opening a window of hope for the future.

The flow of humanitarian aid should reach unimpededly the civilian population. The international humanitarian law should be respected by all, in all cases and under all circumstances.

The immediate ceasefire is imperative.

We call upon all parties to comply with Security Council resolutions and show respect for human lives, and to pursue efforts so that peace and stability finally come to the region.

Thank you Mr. President



STATEMENT

By

MICHAEL MITCHELL

Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.

PERMANENT MISSION OF GRENADA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON BEHALF OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY

(CARICOM)

BEFORE THE

TENTH EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION (RESUMED)
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**"ILLEGAL ISRAELI ACTIONS IN THE OCCUPIED EAST JERUSALEM AND
THE REST OF THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY"**

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

16 January 2009

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Mr. President,

The member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) would like to take this opportunity to first thank you for convening this Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly. We welcome this opportunity to offer our views, as part of the wider membership of the United Nations, on the dire situation in Gaza.

We are happy that history will not record a silent General Assembly as human suffering escalates in the Gaza as others fail to bring about effective action.

Mr. President, we draw your attention to the statement issued by the ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Caribbean Community issued January 9, 2009 and which has been circulated to member states.

We in the Caribbean Community express grave concern over the attack on Gaza and southern Israel, and we equally deplore the attendant loss of life, including that of non-combatant, especially innocent women and children. We deplore too the widespread destruction of essential property and infrastructure, most especially people's homes.

The Caribbean Community condemns unequivocally the deliberate attacks on UN personnel, convoys, and facilities. We join with the Secretary General in strongly denouncing these seemingly deliberate but repeated attacks.

The Caribbean Community reiterates the call made by the international community for an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire as stated in Resolution 1860 (2009) passed by the Security Council. We are appalled by the blatant disregard of this legitimate demand by the international community. The United Nations should not condone such appalling conduct by any of its member states where the wishes of the organization are flaunted without any consequence.

That is why, Mr. President, the Caribbean Community supports your specific call for an immediate ceasefire and immediate humanitarian access. We envision, Mr. President, with compliance on these two actions that the General Assembly will begin to meet its obligation under the UN Charter to promote peace and to end human suffering.

Throughout this conflict we have witnessed the utter disregard for the dignity and sanctity of human life, as well as, the wanton killing and maiming of innocent civilians particularly women and children. Indeed subjecting the whole Palestinian people to collective punishment is unacceptable to us.

We support every effort being undertaken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Arab League, other states and other international organizations. There is no doubt that peace is deeply desired by the long suffering but brave people of the Middle East region. Hence the Member States of the Caribbean Community firmly urge all parties and stakeholders to spare no effort to bring the peace process back on track. We call on the parties to adopt and adhere to meaningful benchmarks that will resolve all outstanding issues. Let there be a clear timeline for achieving lasting and durable peace between the parties for the ultimate benefit of all concerned.

The economic and humanitarian embargo imposed on the people of Gaza must be lifted with immediate effect and measures must be instituted to allow unhindered flow of relief supplies, humanitarian personnel and other humanitarian aid to the civilian population.

The Caribbean Community calls for strict observance to the principles of International Humanitarian Law, including the Geneva Convention; every effort should be made to uphold their integrity, we call on the parties to fully respect their obligation in this regard.

The economic life of the people of Gaza must not be jeopardized. The day- to- day life supporting activities of the Palestinian people, which ensure basic human well- being and survival must never be threatened; for to do so violates the fundamental human rights principles of right to life and to dignity.

It is in this spirit of the protection of peoples human rights, Mr. President, that the Caribbean Community wishes to see unfettered access be given to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNWRA), International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) and other humanitarian organizations, to enable them to carry out legitimate humanitarian work that is so desperately needed to alleviate the plight of the population in Gaza.

Equally, the right to safety and protection for the people of Gaza and the people of Southern Israel must be guaranteed.

Finally Mr. President in adhering to diplomacy as the language of dispute settlements, we the Member States of the Caribbean Community stand ready to play our part in finding a just and lasting solution to the international quest for durable peace between Israel and Palestine, and the wider Middle East.

We do not believe that there can be a military solution to this Israeli-Palestinian conflict; and therefore we call on all parties to return to the negotiating table. Indeed, a new momentum must be generated by all concerned. The attainment of peace in the region must start with the immediate cessation of hostilities in the ongoing conflict, with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security, within internationally-recognized borders.

Mr. President, once again we thank you for your strong and exemplary leadership, compassion and fortitude which you have demonstrated throughout this tragic humanitarian crisis. This is exemplified by your courage as you search with this dialogue, in search for immediate but meaningful solutions.

Prud

Statement by Mr. Emil Breki Hreggvidsson

Deputy Permanent Representative of Iceland to the United Nations

General Assembly

Special Emergency Session: Illegal Israeli actions in the Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

16 January 2009

Mr. President,

Iceland firmly supports calls by the UN Secretary-General for both sides to stop the fighting immediately. But the Gaza conflict cannot be addressed as a stand-alone issue. While we must acknowledge the urgency to stop the immediate crisis, we must also put our calls in a broader context of imperatives for sustainable peace: First and foremost the urgent recommencement of the Peace Process; intra-Palestinian reconciliation; the ending of the blockade on Gaza as well as the ending of the closure regime in the West Bank.

The Peace Process must recommence with the active involvement of the UN and the international community. A new approach is needed to find a way out of the impasse. The Arab Peace Initiative is promising but such an international process needs the full commitment of *all* parties involved. Iceland renews its call for the better inclusion of women in the peace process in accordance to Security Council Resolution 1325.

Mr. President,

The firing of rockets from Gaza to terrorize Israeli civilians must stop. Iceland has condemned these rocket attacks. Hamas bears a heavy responsibility for drawing civilians into the conflict zone. Furthermore, the use of civilian facilities as a cover for militant operations is a breach of international law.

This said, Mr. President, one side's breach of international law does not exempt another from abiding by it. Targeting of civilian homes, schools, hospitals and mosques is unacceptable and in violation of international humanitarian law. Growing pockets of the population are trapped in their homes and aid organisations are unable to access them, according to OCHA. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), states that

“wounded people have been abandoned and left to suffer alone, unable to reach hospitals and inaccessible to ambulances and medical workers. Some wounded have even died because ambulances did not receive the required clearances to reach them in time”.

We call on Israel to *permanently* remove restrictions on medical teams and humanitarian aid.

Mr. President,

Iceland stresses the importance of UNRWA's work in the region, especially for Gaza's inhabitants, whose vast majority are Palestine refugees. We welcome the Security Council's call to Member States for additional contributions to the Agency in Resolution 1860. We strongly condemn Israel's attack, yesterday, on UNRWA's headquarters in Gaza, where seven hundred civilians had sought shelter from the shelling and vital supplies were stored. We, UN Member States, must demand full explanation for the number of attacks the United Nations have suffered in Gaza in the past three weeks. These attacks are unacceptable.

Mr. President,

We must break out of this vicious cycle of violence. The international community must play the role of a good physician and do its best to remedy the cause of the conflict. At the same time, Israel and Palestinians must refrain from actions that inflame the symptoms.

This emergency session of the General Assembly should lend its full support for the call for ceasefire in Security Council Resolution 1860 and its immediate implementation.

Thank you, Mr. President.



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**General Assembly
Thirty-second plenary
meeting
The Tenth Emergency
Special Session
(resumed)**

**Statement by
H.E. Dr. R.M. Marty M. Natalegawa
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Indonesia
to the United Nations**

**Agenda Item:
"Illegal Israeli Actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the
rest of the occupied Palestinian Territory"**

New York, 15 January 2009

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Mr. President,

It is, of course, customary to begin by expressing appreciation for the convening of a meeting; in the present instance, this resumed Tenth Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly.

Indeed, Indonesia has been amongst its chief proponent and therefore is solidly behind its convening.

Yet, we are deeply saddened by the circumstance which requires such emergency session, namely the worsening plight of innocent Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip brought by Israel's military actions and its continued stubborn refusal to heed international calls to bring the military operations to an end.

Indeed, the international community's total rejection of the violence now permeating in the Gaza Strip as a result of Israeli actions, must be made loud and clear through all appropriate avenues within the United Nations system.

Not least by our General Assembly.

For some three weeks now, the Israeli military operations against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have rightly preoccupied the Security Council, as the organ entrusted with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Indeed, after some delay, the Security Council took action by adopting resolution 1860 on 8 January 2009. We draw some encouragement from that decision; mindful at all times, however, of the need to ensure that it would be swiftly implemented.

Alas, one week on, the carnage continues.

Indeed, only earlier today, the UNRWA compound was shelled, thus adding to the catalogue of atrocities committed by Israel.

Mr. President,

Indonesia is outraged by the horrific consequences of Israeli actions.

Indonesia once again, condemns in the strongest manner possible, Israeli military attacks against Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip, in contravention of international humanitarian and human rights law.

Our august Assembly is mandated by the Charter to bring to attention situations which are likely to endanger international peace and security. Nowhere is this more true than on the situation in the Middle East, with the question of Palestine at its heart.

Today offers the opportunity for the wider membership of the United Nations to express its view on the grave situation in the Gaza Strip.

We must not allow silence on the part of the General Assembly to be wrongly construed as being acquiescence to the on-going carnage caused by Israel.

The international community can not and, indeed, must not, stand idly by as hundreds of innocent civilians- women and children fall victims to Israeli atrocities.

As the death toll mounts; it is clear that every moment counts.

There must be urgent efforts to ensure the protection and safety of innocent civilians.

We must also not forget those who have perished.

The perpetrators of such heinous crimes, in violation of international humanitarian and human rights law, must be held accountable. As a member of the Human Rights Council, Indonesia thus welcomes the adoption by the Council of its resolution on 12 January 2009 deciding, inter alia, for the dispatch of an independent international fact-finding mission to investigate all violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by Israel as the occupying power.

Mr. President,

The continuing violence in the Gaza Strip has greatly worsened the already dire humanitarian situation caused by the more than 18 months of Israeli closures.

Combined with the incessant military attacks, this policy of illegal blockade and closures of the Gaza Strip constitutes nothing less than a collective punishment of an entire people. The number of children victims: more than three hundred killed and in excess of 1500 injured - is harrowing.

Innocent civilians are trapped. Unable to flee the fighting and find refuge.

Israel must immediately and permanently lift the closure and ensure the unhindered and safe access of humanitarian aid and other essential supplies to the civilian population in the Gaza Strip.

It must also ensure the safe passage of civilian persons and humanitarian personnel into and from the Gaza Strip in accordance with international humanitarian law.

Worse still, Israel has continued its callous practice targeting humanitarian convoys. The shelling of the UNRWA compound illustrates that, despite repeated assurances, Israel has continued to display utter disregard of humanitarian principles.

Indonesia would like to pay tribute to the dedication and sacrifices of the humanitarian personnel. We must extend the fullest support to their courageous efforts.

Mr. President,

For every passing day we bear witness to yet more deaths and destruction.

The price of delay is immeasurable.

Our Assembly must urgently issue a clarion call: end the fighting; reject the logic of force; and promote dialogue and negotiations as the only path towards a just and sustainable peace.

In this connection, Indonesia deems it important that the General Assembly asserts its role, not least as the conscience of the international community; and to add value to the various on-going diplomatic efforts to bring the fighting to an end.

We believe that the Assembly's focus should be to push for a prompt and immediate action.

Again, to bring the fighting to an end.

In this connection, Indonesia would like to pay tribute, in particular, to the strong efforts by the Secretary-General, as well as those of the countries in the region, individually or collectively through the League of Arab States.

Mr. President,

The Charter of the United Nations clearly outlines that maintaining peace and security is one of the purposes of the Organization.

Our General Assembly has a historic responsibility on the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East.

My delegation, therefore, welcomes the intention of the President of the General Assembly to facilitate a formal outcome to our present deliberation.

Of course, we must reiterate the importance of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1860. However, we must do more.

We must build on the said resolution in line with the various concerns expressed during this present Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly.

From Indonesia's perspective, at least two issues stand out, first, the need to urge the international community, including countries in the region, to redouble their efforts to ensure the full implementation of resolution 1860, and second, a request to the Secretary-General to carry out an immediate investigation into the human rights violations and the destruction of the Palestinian infra-structure caused by the Israeli military actions.

At this critical juncture, it is incumbent that the Assembly responds collectively and with urgency to bring the fighting to an end; to realize a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East based on all relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 1397 (2002) and 1515 (2003), the Madrid terms of reference, and the principle of land for peace.

Indonesia is committed to work earnestly in achieving such objective.

Thank you, **Mr. President.**



IRELAND

Statement

by

**H.E. Mr. Paul Kavanagh
Permanent Representative**

**At the Tenth Emergency Special Session
of the
United Nations General Assembly**

New York, 16 January 2009

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Mr. President,

At the outset, I wish to associate myself with the remarks made by the Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic on behalf of the European Union.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland, Mr. Micheál Martin, T.D., warmly welcomed the adoption by the UN Security Council of Resolution 1860 calling for an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire, and I quote:

“It is extremely important that the UN Security Council, as the body tasked with the maintenance of international peace and security, has now acted and asserted its wish to see an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire implemented in Gaza”.

Regrettably however, the tragic events of recent weeks have been further compounded by the failure until now of the protagonists to respond to the will of the international community, so clearly expressed in Resolution 1860. We urge both Israel and Hamas to immediately respond to this call and agree to cease all hostilities in Gaza or directed against the people of southern Israel. The appalling humanitarian situation now prevailing on the ground in Gaza demands no less.

We commend the other diplomatic initiatives underway, particularly those undertaken by the Governments of Egypt and France, aimed at ending the violence and ensuring a sustainable ceasefire. Ireland particularly welcomes the leadership which the Secretary-General has provided throughout the crisis and again at this critical juncture, through his current Mission to the region.

Our Minister for Foreign Affairs has also made clear Ireland's grave concern at actions of the Israeli military which has now compelled UNRWA (UN Relief and Works Agency) twice to suspend its operations in Gaza. Ireland deplores the loss of life among United Nations and other relief workers in Gaza. We would remind all sides to the conflict in Gaza of their obligations to comply fully with international humanitarian law, including as regards facilitation of humanitarian operations and not impeding those humanitarian actors seeking to assist the injured and dying. It is also important that incidents such as the shelling of UN facilities in Gaza and the killing of medical and ambulance personnel during the performance of their duties should be fully investigated by the international community.

Speaking yesterday in the region, the Secretary-General rightly pointed out that it is intolerable that the civilian populations – in Gaza and in southern Israel – bear the brunt of this conflict. The civilian population of Gaza has suffered to an appalling degree. Their welfare, through the urgent and unimpeded provision of all necessary humanitarian supplies and an end to the violence, must be the priority now in ensuring that the ceasefire provided for in Resolution 1860 is put in place as speedily as possible. My Government has announced an initial emergency contribution of €500,000 as an immediate contribution to the latest UN Humanitarian Response Fund to alleviate the consequences of the current critical humanitarian situation in Gaza.

We know from our own history that violence serves only to exacerbate conflict and that there can be no military solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in Gaza or elsewhere. The tragic events of recent weeks remind us that only a vigorous political process can hope to

achieve progress toward lasting peace and stability in the Middle East on the basis of a negotiated two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In this context, Palestinian unity remains an essential goal, not only in order to reunite Gaza with the West Bank but also to provide a solid and realistic basis for efforts to achieve a final status agreement.

The Council and the international community have spoken in the clearest terms of the need for both sides to step back from the precipice and desist from further violence. Together with our partners in the EU, we stand ready to assist the other members of the Quartet and the countries of the region as they seek to ensure the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1860. The terrible and continuing violence of the last week makes this task a more difficult but still more urgent one.

ENDS

ISRAEL

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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**Statement by
Ambassador Gabriela Shalev
Permanent Representative**

Tenth Emergency Special Session (resumed)

United Nations, New York
15 January 2009

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Thank you.

I would like to stress that my comments are without prejudice to our clear position of principle that the convening of this Emergency Special Session violates the fundamental conditions of the "Uniting for Peace" procedure and the United Nations Charter.

The Emergency Special Session will take place as the Security Council is actively addressing the situation in southern Israel and the Gaza Strip. Only last week, the Security Council adopted resolution 1860 that seeks to promote an end to the current violence. As we now speak, the Secretary-General is visiting our region with the endorsement of the Security Council with the view of facilitating a solution to the conflict.

The charter of the United Nations states that "While the Security Council is exercising in respect of any dispute or situation the functions assigned to it in the present Charter, the General Assembly shall not make any recommendation with regard to that dispute or situation unless the Security Council so requests."

This being the case, what is the real purpose of convening this emergency special session?

Furthermore, UN General Assembly resolution 377 states that emergency special sessions of the General Assembly are designed to act only when the Security Council, "because of lack of unanimity of the permanent members, fails to exercise its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security," meaning in case of veto only. Since there was no veto on this matter, and since the Security Council remains actively seized on this issue, the convening of this meeting of the General Assembly is one that defies its own rules.

This is not the only inherent defect with this meeting. Among other things, the subject under discussion is far removed from the issue which gave rise to the never-ending 10th Emergency Special Session. The convening of this meeting under the guise of the 10th Emergency Special Session is therefore deceitful and contrary to established procedure and honest common sense.

Yet in today's meeting, the Assembly is not only trampling on its own procedural requirements, but also on the very principles it has committed itself to uphold.

In its resolution on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism (A/RES/63/129), this Assembly reiterated its strong condemnation of "all acts methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations." But where was this Assembly's condemnation of the Hamas' terrorist attacks, of its deliberate targeting of schools and hospitals, of the eight years in which the residents of southern Israel have had to live their lives within 15 seconds reach of bunkers to protect them from terrorist rockets and missiles?

Where is this assembly's strong condemnation of the incidents of katyusha rockets fired from Lebanon on a nursing home in Nahariya and in Kiryat Shmona in the north of Israel in the last week?

In the abovementioned resolution, the Assembly reiterated its call upon states to refrain from financing, encouraging, providing training for or otherwise supporting terrorist activities. Where then is the condemnation of Iran, which manufactured many of the missiles smuggled into Gaza during the period of so-called calm, and trained the terrorist to fire them on Israeli schools and kindergartens?

Where is the condemnation of Syria which continues to host terrorist headquarters in Damascus, and to facilitate the flow of weapons and missiles across its border to Hezbollah?

In this Assembly's resolution on the Safety and Security of Humanitarian and United Nations Personnel (A/RES/61/133), the General Assembly stressed the importance of "fully respecting the obligations relating to the use of vehicles and premises of humanitarian personnel and the United Nations." Where then is its condemnation of Hamas and other terrorist groups for deliberately endangering civilians by hiding stockpiles of weapons and missiles inside hospitals, and firing them from in and around United Nations schools?

In this Assembly's resolution on Assistance to Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (A/RES/58/150), this Assembly condemned "all acts of exploitation of unaccompanied refugee minors, including their use as soldiers or human shields in armed conflict and their forced recruitment into military forces, and any other acts that endanger their safety and personal security." Why then is this Assembly silent as Hamas launches attacks from densely populated homes and mosques as it cowers behind the Palestinian population as human shields?

In its resolution on Combating Defamation of Religions (A/RES/63/171), this Assembly expressed its deep concern at "programs and agendas pursued by extremist organizations and groups aimed at the defamation of religions, and incitement to religious hatred." Where then is the deep concern of this assembly at the toxic religious incitement and indoctrination of Palestinian children, and the brutal persecution of Christians in Gaza? Where is the rejection of the Hamas Covenant which states "No war takes place anywhere in the world without the Jews behind the scenes having a hand in it...whenever they fan the flames of war, Allah will extinguish them."

This Assembly is trampling on its own procedures, and on its own principles. But it is also trampling on the hopes of millions of people for a better future.

For this meeting is being watched. It is being watched by the Hamas terrorist organization which sees that there are dark corners of the international community in which disdain for human values will not deprive Hamas of legitimacy.

It is being watched by al-Qaida and other terrorist groups around the world, who learn that the resolve of the international community to confront terrorists is beginning to crack. They learn that hiding behind civilians in the course of armed conflict — bringing death and injury upon such civilians — is indeed cowardly but can here be effective and serve their purposes.

It is being watched by Iran — the sponsor of terror — for whom it confirms that its war of terror by proxy against humanity may bring results.

It is being watched by over one million Israeli civilians who live under the threat of Hamas rockets and mortar shells.

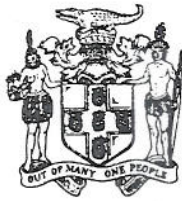
Sadly, there are countless human tragedies and immeasurable human suffering around the globe. Victims of the most severe violations of their most basic rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, North Korea, Afghanistan, Somalia, Iran, Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, Zimbabwe, and elsewhere cry out for their plight to be heard, for their suffering to be redressed by the international community.

This meeting is being watched by those millions of victims. It is being watched by those who see that their suffering will never reach the international stage because the General Assembly gathers today in a cynical, hateful and politicized fashion to delegitimize Israel's fundamental right to defend its citizens.

From this meeting, all such victims can only draw despair.

If the General Assembly truly desires to unite for peace — and not merely in name — it should unite for peace by uniting against terrorism.

Thank you.



PERMANENT MISSION OF
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT BY

H.E. MR. RAYMOND O. WOLFE
AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT THE

RESUMED TENTH EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 15TH JANUARY 2009

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Mr. President,

The situation that has caused us to assemble here today is indeed beyond doubt, regrettable. It has been exactly one week since the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1860 which called for an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire, leading to the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza. To date, what we have seen is an escalation in violence and the continued reckless killing of Palestinian civilians, the maiming of others including defenseless women and children, and the destruction of property and infrastructure.

Mr. President,

The Government of Jamaica is extremely concerned at the escalation of the conflict in Gaza. We recognize Israel's right to protect its citizens. We are however, horrified at the disproportionate and excessive use of force and the blatant disregard for the safety of innocent civilians, by the Israeli Government.

We are no less concerned about the indiscriminate firing of rockets over many weeks into Israeli territory by Palestinian militants. This cycle of violence and retaliation impedes efforts and thwarts initiatives aimed at brokering lasting peace in the region.

Jamaica is appalled at the horrific tragedy unfolding on the ground which according to the chief of emergency medical services in Gaza, has now killed over one thousand Palestinians more than half of them civilians and 4,500 wounded, many of them women and children.

Mr. President,

We reiterate our support for Security Council resolution 1860 and urge both sides to fully and expeditiously implement the ceasefire; a ceasefire that is durable and fully respected and which will facilitate the unimpeded provision and distribution of aid to alleviate the suffering and worsening humanitarian situation in Gaza.

Jamaica welcomes the on-going Egyptian efforts aimed at achieving a ceasefire and the mediation efforts of Egypt and the League of Arab States, to realize intra-Palestinian reconciliation.

Mr. President,

History has demonstrated that there can be no military solution to this conflict. A people's rights and legitimate aspirations cannot be suppressed indefinitely.

Jamaica continues its call for all parties to pursue diplomatic efforts in order to ensure the peaceful resolution of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. In this regard we call for the resumption of negotiations aimed at arriving at a permanent solution that would guarantee Israel's security and the right of Palestinians to statehood, in keeping with Security Council resolutions, in particular, 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), that call on Israel to withdraw to its pre-1967 borders.

I thank you Mr. President.



Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

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(Please check against delivery)

**STATEMENT BY H.E. YUKIO TAKASU,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN
ON ILLEGAL ISRAELI ACTIONS IN OCCUPIED EAST JERUSALEM
AND THE REST OF THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY
AT TENTH EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION
16 JANUARY, 2009, NEW YORK**

Mr. President,

Japan shares serious concern about the situation in and around the Gaza Strip. We deplore the heavy casualties, now reaching over 1000, which include more than 300 children and 70 women, according to the report by Mr. John Holms, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs the day before yesterday.

As stated in Security Council resolution 1860, Japan condemns all violence and hostilities directed against civilians and all acts of terrorism. As a staunch supporter of UNRWA activities for Palestinians, what happened at UNRWA facilities yesterday is not acceptable. There is extensive damage to public infrastructure which is having an adverse impact to this dire situation. This may affect the population in the long-term. We call for, once again, an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire.

In this regard, we fully support Security Council resolution 1860 which was adopted with the broadest possible political support last week. Japan fully supports the elements contained in the resolution and will work together with other members of the international community to realize those elements. As a member of the Security Council, Japan, united with all members of the Security Council, will remain seized of the matter, not just until there is a ceasefire, but until true peace is realized in the region.

Mr. Hirofumi Nakasone, Foreign Minister of Japan conveyed to Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Foreign Minister of Egypt Japan's appreciation to the diplomatic efforts underway in bringing about a ceasefire. We also give our wholehearted support to the Secretary General, who is currently in the region and working tirelessly as we speak, for bringing an end to the violence. We look forward to the Secretary General's report of the trip to the Security Council upon his return. Ambassador Arima, Special Envoy of the Government of Japan for the Middle East, has met with political leaders of Egypt, Israel, and Palestinian Authority to urge all parties to realize an immediate ceasefire.

Japan deeply sympathizes with the innocent civilians who are suffering in Gaza. The people in Gaza require immediate humanitarian assistance, and Japan has announced its emergency assistance of 10 million dollars, of which 3 million dollars will be provided through UNRWA immediately.

All necessary humanitarian and economic aid should be allowed to go unhindered through the crossings. The crossings into Gaza need to be reopened under legitimate control, in order to allow necessary supplies to reach the population in need and to provide medical treatment for the injured.

Mr. President,

We believe that it is of paramount importance that the solution to the problem comes from the parties concerned, with the support from the regional and international community, not the other way around. Japan on its part will continue to play a constructive role to help the parties in their efforts to achieve peace.

In closing, I would like to renew Japan's commitment to the principles laid out in Security Council resolutions 1850 and 1860. A lasting peace will only be achieved through an enduring commitment to mutual recognition; freedom from violence, incitement and terror; and the two-state solution, building upon previous agreements and obligations. We sincerely hope that the political process will soon again be on track to realize a comprehensive, just and lasting peace.

Thank you



Jordan

PERMANENT MISSION OF H.K. OF JORDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

بيان

وفد الاردن

أمام

الدورة الاستثنائية الطارئة العاشرة للجمعية العامة حول الاوضاع في غزة

نيويورك /1/16 /2009

الرجاء المراجعة عند الإلقاء

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

السيد رئيس الجمعية العامة

إسمحوا لي في البداية أن أتقدم بالشكر والتقدير لكم على دعوتكم لعقد الدورة الإستثنائية الطارئة العاشرة لبحث العدوان الإسرائيلي على قطاع غزة والآثار الكارثية التي تركها على أهالي القطاع. لقد أثبتت مواقفكم المعروفة-السيد الرئيس- إلتزامكم الواضح بمقاصد هذه المنظمة الدولية وأهدافها النبيلة، لقد عمدتم - منذ اليوم الاول لتقلدكم مهامكم- الى تحقيق العدالة وتأكيد فعالية الجمعية العامة في اطار منظومة الامم المتحدة.

يضم الأردن صوته للبيان الذي ألقاه المغرب بالنيابة عن المجموعة العربية، وكوبا بالنيابة عن حركة عدم الإنحياز، وأوغندا بالنيابة عن منظمة مؤتمر الدول الإسلامية.

السيد الرئيس

الوفود الموقرة

إذ يستنكر الأردن العدوان الإسرائيلي الذي أدى إلى سقوط الاف الضحايا من المدنيين الأبرياء فإنه يعيد مطالبة المجتمع الدولي تحمل مسؤولياته السياسية والقانونية والأخلاقية لإلزام إسرائيل بتطبيق قرار مجلس الأمن 1860 (2009)، ووقف كافة عملياتها العسكرية بشكل فوري، وإنهاء سياسة العقاب الجماعي التي تنتهجها ضد المدنيين الفلسطينيين، ورفع الحصار، وفتح المعابر، ومعالجة المعاناة الكارثية التي خلفتها العمليات العسكرية والتي تشكل انتهاكاً صريحاً للقانون الدولي الانساني، وإتفاقية جنيف الرابعة، والإعلان العالمي لحقوق الإنسان بل ولكافة الصكوك الدولية المعنية بحماية المدنيين في الصراعات المسلحة ولاسما الأطفال منهم والنساء.

لقد عبر القرار 1860 بوضوح عن الإجماع الدولي الداعي للوقف الفوري والدائم لإطلاق النار الذي يحظى بالإحترام الكامل، كما عبر عن ضرورة الإنسحاب الكامل للقوات الإسرائيلية من غزة، وإلى تقديم المساعدات الإنسانية، والعمل على التخفيف من حدة الحالة الإنسانية والإقتصادية في القطاع، وإلى بذل جهود مجددة من قبل الأطراف والمجتمع الدولي لإحلال السلام يستند إلى حل الدولتين حسب ما هو متوخى في القرار 1850. إن هذا الإجماع الدولي جزء من الشرعية الدولية، والزاميته القانونية والإخلاقية والسياسية واجبة على إسرائيل.

السيد الرئيس

إن الأردن قيادة وشعباً ملتزم بدعمه الكامل للشعب الفلسطيني في إنهاء معاناته الإنسانية ونيل حقوقه الأساسية بما في ذلك إنشاء الدولة الفلسطينية المستقلة على التراب الوطني الفلسطيني، حيث يقوم جلاله الملك عبدالله الثاني بحفظه الله ومنذ بداية الأزمة باتصالات مكثفة مع عدد من أشقائه الزعماء العرب والقيادات السياسية الإقليمية والدولية لضمان الوقف الفوري للعدوان والتزام الأطراف بالقرار 1860. ويعبر الأردن في هذا الصدد عن دعمه الكامل للجهود الحثيثة والمستمرة التي تبذلها جمهورية مصر العربية الشقيقة والهادفة للتوصل إلى وقف فوري لإطلاق النار وإنهاء معاناة الأشقاء الفلسطينيين وحماية حقوقهم.

السيد الرئيس

لقد وصل تردي الأوضاع الإنسانية في قطاع غزة إلى درجات غير مسبوقة لا تقبل بها الإنسانية، وباتت مظاهر القتل والترهيب من المشاهد اليومية المتكررة. كل هذا ومازالت إليه الحرب الإسرائيلية ماضية في قتلها وعدوانها دون إي إكتراث لنداءات وكالات الأمم المتحدة واللجنة الدولية للصليب الأحمر التي عبرت عن عمق وخطورة مأساة غزة. إن العدوان الإسرائيلي والإستخدام المفرط وغير المناسب للقوة العسكرية ومايرافقه من حصار غير مبرر على القطاع قد إغتال كافة متطلبات الحياة الطبيعية هناك. لم يسلم الطفل والصحفي

والطبيب من عدوان إسرائيل التي دمرت عملياتها المرافق، والخدمات العامة، والمدارس والمستشفيات، ودور العبادة وحتى مقرات وكالات الأمم المتحدة.

أن من الضرورة - السيد الرئيس - أن يتبع وقف العدوان جهد دولي جاد وفعال لمعالجة الكارثة الإنسانية في القطاع، وإعادة إعمارها، وإعادة الحياة الطبيعية لأهالي غزة. إن الأردن ملتزم التزاماً كاملاً بتلك الجهود، حيث أوعز جلالة الملك بفتح المستشفيات الأردنية ووضع كافة الامكانيات المتاحة لخدمة الأشقاء الفلسطينيين من خلال المساعدات الطبية، وتجهيز مستشفى ميداني عسكري لإرساله لغزة لمعالجة المرضى والجرحى. كما عبر الأردن عن إستعداده لتقديم كافة التسهيلات لمؤسسات الأمم المتحدة التي تعمل على مواجهة تبعات الكارثة الإنسانية التي سببها العدوان، ولإطلاق شراكة فاعلة مع هذه المؤسسات لضمان تقديم كل العون والإسناد الذي يحتاجه الأشقاء الفلسطينيون. كما أن الأردن مستعد للعمل لإيصال أية مساعدات دولية عبر أراضيها على مدار الساعة ومن خلال الهيئة الخيرية الهاشمية التي تعمل دون إنقطاع على إيصال المساعدات ووحدات الدم الى الأخوة في قطاع غزة.

لقد بلغت المساعدات الأردنية التي أمر جلالة الملك بإرسالها الى قطاع غزة، 14 قافلة محملة بـ 2311 طناً من المساعدات الغذائية والمستلزمات الطبية، إضافة إلى تسيير جسر جوي لنقل نحو ثمانين ألف وجبة غذائية جاهزة إلى مطار العريش تمهيداً لنقلها إلى القطاع وتوزيعها من خلال منظمة الغذاء العالمي. ويستمر الأردن أيضاً في إيصال المساعدات إلى غزة من دول عربية وإسلامية وغربية، والتواصل مع شركائه في الإتحاد الأوروبي في بحث سبل الاستفادة من الامكانيات الاردنية العملية واللوجستية في مجال تقديم المساعدات للفلسطينيين من خلال الهيئة الخيرية الهاشمية ومركز الامن الوطني وادارة الازمات.

لن يتحقق السلام والإستقرار في الشرق الأوسط من خلال العمليات العسكرية، بل عبر الحوار والمفاوضات الجادة التي توفر للسلطة الفلسطينية الشرعية ما يمكن أن يلي طموحات الشعب الفلسطيني في إنشاء دولته المستقلة، والقابلة للحياة، والمتصلة جغرافيا وعاصمتها القدس. إن العودة إلى المفاوضات هي السبيل الوحيد لحل الصراع الفلسطيني الإسرائيلي وفقا للمرجعيات الدولية ذات الصلة بما فيها قرارات الامم المتحدة، وخطة خارطة الطريق، ومبادرة السلام العربية. إن استخدام إسرائيل للقوة العسكرية لا يهدد فقط استقرار المنطقة ولكنه يقوض أيضا الجهود التي تبذلها الأطراف الدولية لإحلال السلام في الشرق الأوسط كما تم التعبير عنه في القرار 1850، ويهدد كذلك العملية السلمية برمتها والهادفة الى حل الصراع الفلسطيني - الإسرائيلي وفقا لصيغة حل الدولتين الذي يشكل شرطا أساسيا لتحقيق الأمن والاستقرار في المنطقة.

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

*Permanent Mission
of the State of Kuwait
to the United Nations
New York*



وَفْدُ دَوْلَةِ الْكُوَيْتِ الدَّائِمِ
لِلدَّيْلِ الْأُمَمِ الْمُتَّحِدَةِ
نِيُويُورِك

بيان

وفد دولة الكويت لدى الأمم المتحدة

يلقيه

المستشار / جاسم الناجم

أمام

الجمعية العامة في الدورة الاستثنائية الطارئة العاشرة

الأعمال الإسرائيلية غير القانونية في القدس الشرقية

المحتلة وبقية الأرض الفلسطينية المحتلة

الجمعة ، ١٦ يناير ٢٠٠٩

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

السيد الرئيس،

أود أن أتقدم لكم بجزيل الشكر والتقدير على الجهود الحثيثة التي تقومون بها والموقف الواضح الذي اتخذتموه حول ضرورة الوقف الفوري والشامل لإطلاق النار على اثر العدوان الإسرائيلي على قطاع غزة وذلك منذ يومه الأول، والدعوة لاستئناف الدورة الاستثنائية الطارئة العاشرة للجمعية العامة استجابة للمطالب الدولية للنظر في ممارسات اسرائيل غير القانونية في الأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة بما فيها القدس الشرقية والتي تشكل انتهاكاً واضحاً وصريحاً للمواثيق الدولية والقانون الإنساني الدولي. ونؤيد ما جاء في بيان كوبا (باسم حركة عدم الانحياز)، وأوغندا (باسم منظمة المؤتمر الاسلامي)، وما جاء في بيان المغرب (باسم المجموعة العربية).

لقد صعدّ الاحتلال الإسرائيلي من اعتداءاته على قطاع غزة التي دخلت يومها الحادي والعشرين، حيث تعرضت مناطق عديدة من القطاع للقصف كان من ضمنها مستشفيات ومدارس ومقر تابع لوكالة غوث وتشغيل اللاجئين الفلسطينيين (الأنروا)، ومبان تضم مكاتب لوسائل إعلام عالمية، وسبقت هذه التطورات سلسلة من الغارات الجوية على عدة مناطق ألقى فيها الجيش الإسرائيلي قنابل فوسفورية، وبذلك يرتفع عدد ضحايا العدوان الإسرائيلي الذي بدأ في ٢٧/١٢/٢٠٠٨ إلى أكثر من ١١٠٠ شهيد بينهم ٤٠٠ طفل ونحو ثمانين امرأة، إضافة إلى ما يقرب من خمسة آلاف جريح.

إن ما يحدث في غزة إنما هو إبادة جماعية، وجرائم حرب تُرتكب ضد شعب أعزل، ويسقط كافة الادعاءات الاسرائيلية في حقها بالدفاع عن

النفس، ويدحض الادعاء بأنها البلد الديمقراطي الوحيد في المنطقة، أنها ديمقراطية القتل والدمار، ديمقراطية سفك الارواح وتلذذ بدماء الاطفال والنساء. ودولة الكويت تعرب عن قلقها البالغ إزاء استمرار هذا العدوان والذي يعتبر تحد سافر لدعوات المجتمع الدولي ولكافة الجهود الدبلوماسية الإقليمية والدولية المبذولة لوقف فوري لاطلاق النار. كما تؤكد أن هذا العدوان العسكري المرفوض على السكان المدنيين يشكل انتهاكا خطيرا للقانون الدولي، بما فيه القانون الإنساني وقانون حقوق الإنسان، ويؤجج دوامة العنف ويهدد السلم والأمن الدوليين وعملية السلام الهشة بين الطرفين.

إن إسرائيل مطالبة بتنفيذ ما جاء في قرار مجلس الأمن الأخير ١٨٦٠ والقرارات ذات الصلة، والامتثال دون قيد أو شرط لالتزاماتها بمقتضى القانون الدولي وأحكام اتفاقية جنيف الرابعة المتعلقة بحماية المدنيين وقت الحرب.

السيد الرئيس،

إن أبناء الشعب الفلسطيني الذين يقتلون على مدار الساعة من قبل إسرائيل، عانوا منذ سنوات من الحصار والتضييق، ومورست عليهم سياسة العقاب الجماعي حيث أن كل دقيقة إضافية تمر تشهد مزيداً من الضحايا الأبرياء.

لقد سبق لإسرائيل استهداف مدارس تابعة لوكالة الامم المتحدة لغوث وتشغيل اللاجئين الفلسطينيين (الأنروا) وعادت قذائفها لتستهدف المقر الرئيسي للوكالة في غزة، ودولة الكويت تطالب إسرائيل القيام بجميع الإجراءات من اجل ضمان عدم تكرار هذا الهجوم على المدنيين والأهداف الإنسانية. وتشدد على ضرورة إجراء تحقيقات محايدة حيال الحادث مع

التأكيد على ضرورة ضمان سلامة موظفي الوكالة ليتمكنوا من القيام بعملهم الأساسي لمساعدة السكان المدنيين في غزة.

إننا أمام حالة إنسانية صعبة للغاية في الأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة، وندعو جميع الجهات المانحة إلى تقديم المزيد من المساعدات الإنسانية، ودعم مؤسسات الإغاثة العاملة في قطاع غزة، ونشيد بهذا الصدد بدور وكالة الأمم المتحدة لغوث وتشغيل اللاجئين الفلسطينيين (الأونروا) التي تقوم بواجبها الإنساني وسط ظروف عمل خطيرة.

إن مخاطر هذا العدوان لا تتوقف على انعكاساته المباشرة بل تتعدى ذلك إلى تنامي مشاعر الحقد والكراهية. إن ما يحدث اليوم لا يشكل تهديداً خطيراً للسلم والأمن الدوليين فقط، بل وحالة إنسانية خطيرة، فالأمن لا يمكن أن يتحقق من خلال القوة الغاشمة وارتكاب المجازر بحق المدنيين بل أن الأمن الحقيقي والمستدام هو ثمرة عملية سياسية ذات مصداقية تخلق الأمل للناس بمستقبل أفضل. ولقد أجمعت الدول العربية وغيرها من دول العالم المحبة للسلم على التضامن مع الشعب الفلسطيني في معاناته جراء الاحتلال الإسرائيلي الغاشم والاعتداء على غزة، والوقوف إلى جانبه في نضاله العادل لنيل حقوقه المشروعة غير القابلة للتفاوض. وفي مقدمتها حقه في الاستقلال وتقرير المصير وإقامة دولته على ترابه الوطني وعاصمتها القدس.

وإيماناً من دولة الكويت بضرورة بذل كافة الجهود الممكنة للعمل على وقف فوري لإطلاق النار، تستضيف يومي ١٩ و ٢٠ من الشهر الجاري القمة العربية الاقتصادية وستكون الاعتداءات الاسرائيلية على الشعب الفلسطيني في غزة على رأس جدول اعماله، حيث يجتمع وزراء الخارجية العرب الآن لمتابعة مستجدات الأوضاع في غزة.

السيد الرئيس،

إننا نناشد الضمير العالمي، هذا إن بقي في العالم ضمير، بضرورة
الوقف الفوري لآلة الحرب الاسرائيلية التي تحصد أرواح الأبرياء في قطاع
غزة. ونؤيد بهذا الصدد مشروع القرار المقدم من رئيس الجمعية العامة.

وشكرا السيد الرئيس ،،،



كلمة
الجمهورية اللبنانية

تلقاها

كارولين زيادة
المندوب الدائم المعاون

أمام

الجمعية العامة

الدورة الاستثنائية الطارئة العاشرة بشأن
الأعمال الإسرائيلية غير القانونية في القدس
الشرقية المحتلة وبقية الأرض الفلسطينية المحتلة

نيويورك في ١٦/١/٢٠٠٩

الرجاء متابعة النص عند الإلقاء

*Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 531, New York, NY 10017*

السيد الرئيس،

أود بداية أن أتقدم منكم بالشكر لاستئناف الدورة الطارئة العاشرة للجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة لمناقشة الأعمال والممارسات غير القانونية لإسرائيل في الأرض الفلسطينية المحتلة لاسيما قطاع غزة. وليس بالجديد عليكم أن تتخذوا السيد الرئيس المواقف الداعمة للقضايا الإنسانية المحقة والعادلة وفي طليعتها القضية الفلسطينية. كما أود أن أعرب عن تأييدنا الكامل للبيانات التي أدليت باسم حركة عدم الانحياز والمجموعة العربية ومنظمة المؤتمر الإسلامي.

السيد الرئيس،

ثلاثة أسابيع من العدوان الإسرائيلي المنهجي ضد الأبرياء في غزة، واحد وعشرون يوماً من استهداف لأطفال غزة ونسائها وشيوخها، واحد وعشرون يوماً من التدمير للمنشآت المدنية والبنية التحتية والمنازل والمدارس في غزة، واحد وعشرون يوماً لم تستثنى خلالها آلة القتل الإسرائيلية الموظفين الدوليين ومباني الأمم المتحدة والمساعدات الإنسانية، كل ذلك في تحد صارخ للقانون الدولي والقانون الإنساني العام.

يسبق اجتماعنا اليوم وبعبارات رئيس بلادي العماد ميشال سليمان "دفع الدماء البريئة وصراخ الأجساد الممزقة وحلّك الدخان العاتي تجبل بها تربة غزة العزيرة"، مما يحتم علينا مسؤولية كبرى لا بد من أن تكون على مستوى العدوان الإسرائيلي وفداحته، ولا بد من أن يأتي اجتماعنا اليوم في سياق الجهود المبذولة لوقف حد لهذا العدوان الإسرائيلي، وتقديم الدعم للشعب الفلسطيني الشقيق. مما يحمل الجمعية العامة مسؤولية جليلة بأن تكون منبراً للعدالة والحق، وحارساً لأحكام القانون الدولي، وأن يصدر عنها قراراً يحظى بأوسع دعم وتأييد، وقد سعينا ولا نزال لتحقيق الدعم الأوسع له من أجل أن يكون لقرارنا الفعالية المطلوبة دون أن يعني ذلك أننا مستعدون للمساومة على المبادئ والحقوق الأساسية التي كرسها القانون الدولي وميثاق الأمم المتحدة. وقد رحبنا بما تضمنه مشروع القرار الذي قدمه رئيس الجمعية العامة بالدعوة إلى وقف فوري لإطلاق النار والانسحاب الفوري للقوات الإسرائيلية من

غزة، وتسهيل دخول المساعدات الإنسانية إلى القطاع، والدعوة لتكاتف الجهود من قبل الأسرة الدولية للمساهمة في سبيل تخفيف وطأة الأزمة الإنسانية والاقتصادية.

السيد الرئيس،

لم ولن يأل لبنان جهداً في سبيل التضامن مع الشعب الفلسطيني الشقيق ورفع الظلم عنه وتمكينه من استعادة كافة حقوقه المشروعة، إذ اتخذت الحكومة اللبنانية قراراً بتقديم مساعدة مالية بقيمة مليون دولار أميركي، كما شارك معالي وزير الخارجية والمغتربين السيد فوزي صلوخ في الجهود التي بذلها الوفد الوزاري العربي للتوصل إلى اعتماد مجلس الأمن القرار ١٨٦٠ الداعي إلى وقف فوري ودائم لإطلاق النار وإلى الانسحاب الكامل للقوات الإسرائيلية من قطاع غزة والتخفيف من الكارثة الإنسانية في غزة.

فما كان من إسرائيل إلا الإمعان، شأنها دائماً، في تحدي الشرعية الدولية وقراراتها فأعلن رئيس وزرائها بأنهم غير معنيين به ومضت إسرائيل في عدوانها على القطاع وأهله.

السيد الرئيس،

كم تشبه معاناة الشعب الفلسطيني معاناة اللبنانيين من الاعتداءات الإسرائيلية المتكررة عليهم وقد كان آخرها عدوان تموز ٢٠٠٦. وهذا العدوان الذي واجهه اللبنانيون في وحدتهم، وفي التزامهم الشرعية الدولية والقرارات الصادرة عنها وفي مقدمتها القرار ١٧٠١، هذا القرار الذي أعلن لبنان منذ لحظة صدوره التزامه الكامل بكافة بنوده، بينما إسرائيل لا تزال ترفض الالتزام وتنفيذ العديد من بنوده.

إن الأحداث الدامية في القطاع أكدت أن عمق المشكلة هو في استمرار الاحتلال الإسرائيلي وممارساته المخلة بمبادئ القانون الدولي وفي تعنت إسرائيل ورفضها المضي في العملية السلمية انطلاقاً من مبادرة السلام العربية التي اعتمدها القادة العرب في قمة بيروت عام ٢٠٠٢ وعادوا وأكدوا عليها في كافة القمم المتلاحقة، وكذلك مبادئ مؤتمر مدريد والقرارات

الدولية ذات الصلة ولعل آخرها القرار ١٨٦٠. أو لم يحن الوقت الذي تتضافر فيه الجهود الدولية لوقف دوامة العنف وردع إسرائيل عن ممارستها المحرمة وانتهاكها للقانون الدولي وإلزامها على الخضوع للإرادة العربية والدولية الداعية للسلام.

السيد الرئيس،

استقبل لبنان منذ ساعات سعادة الأمين العام للأمم المتحدة السيد بان كي مون الذي يقوم بزيارة إلى المنطقة يحمل خلالها السلام عنواناً، فأكد له لبنان ترحيبه به ممثلاً للشرعية الدولية وقيماً على بذل الجهود الحميدة لإيجاد حلول للأزمات التي تعصف بالعالم وما أكثرها، ولعل الشرق الأوسط يشهد واحدة من أقدم هذه الصراعات وأشدّها فتكاً بالإنسان وبمبادئ القانون الدولي. كما أكد له لبنان التزامه الشرعية الدولية وكافة القرارات الصادرة عنها كوسيلة لحل النزاعات مشدداً على أهمية دعم كافة المبادرات الهادفة إلى تحقيق وقف فوري للنار ووضع حد لواحدة من أكبر الكوارث الإنسانية، وتطلع لبنان إلى أن تكون الأمم المتحدة على مستوى المهام المناطة بها بموجب الميثاق.

شكراً سيدي الرئيس.



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

TENTH EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION
ON
ILLEGAL ISRAELI ACTION IN OCCUPIED EAST JERUSALEM AND
THE REST OF THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

STATEMENT

BY

H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

NEW YORK, 16 JANUARY 2009

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President

We welcome this debate of the General Assembly, which is fully consistent with the mandate of this body under the Charter of the United Nations and the Assembly's practice under the "Uniting for Peace" resolution. At the same time, we regret that full clarity on the legal basis of this session was not provided at the beginning of this session, as should have been the case. Indeed, the dramatic situation in Gaza requires the full attention of this Assembly: The ongoing violence has led to a disproportionately high number of civilian casualties, many of them children, and has been characterized by disregard for the basic tenets of international humanitarian law. We express our deepest concern at the massive loss of civilian life, much of which seems due to a disrespect for the provisions of the Geneva Conventions and the principle of proportionality. We are also deeply disturbed by the attacks against the UN school in Jabalyia, the headquarters of UNRWA and the targeting of humanitarian convoys, all in violation of international law and carried out at the expense of the civilian population.

Mr. President

We fully support resolution 1860 adopted by the Security Council more than a week ago and join those who have called for its full implementation. This legally binding decision must be implemented immediately and fully by the parties to the conflict. A durable ceasefire is both a first step and a precondition for a sustainable political solution. All military activities must therefore be stopped. There has to be an immediate end to rocket attacks by Hamas as well as to military action by Israel. It is clear that there can be no military solution to this conflict, and we therefore welcome the ongoing diplomatic efforts including the mission of the Secretary-General whose personal commitment we applaud.

Mr. President

The massive deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Gaza is disturbing. Liechtenstein has been a regular donor to UNWRA over the past years, and the Government will decide on an additional contribution early next week, in light of the urgency of the situation. However, this is not a problem of resources. It is a problem of access, as is sadly the case in other situations as well. We wish to recall that facilitating humanitarian operations is an obligation for all parties to this conflict under international humanitarian law. Immediate, unhindered and secure passage for the delivery of humanitarian aid must therefore be granted. After weeks of relentless conflict and massive violence in one of the most densely populated areas of the world, the humanitarian needs are urgent and numerous, ranging from the delivery of medical and other basic supplies to the evacuation of injured persons. These needs must be addressed immediately and with the support of the parties. We also hope that there will be no impunity for the massive violations of humanitarian law that seems to have been committed in the course of this conflict.

Mr. President

This session serves a meaningful purpose if it results in a resolution that supports the implementation of Security Council resolution 1860 and increases the political pressure in this respect. This is a time where the General Assembly must stand united and send the unequivocal signal that the violence in Gaza is unacceptable and must end immediately. We therefore hope that a text resulting from this session will find the strongest possible numerical and political support in this Assembly.

I thank you.

LUXEMBOURG



Intervention de

S.E.Mme Sylvie Lucas
Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent
du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg
auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies

**Assemblée générale des Nations Unies
Dixième session extraordinaire d'urgence (reprise)
Mesures illégales prises par Israël à Jérusalem-est occupée et
dans le reste du Territoire palestinien occupé**

New York, le 16 janvier 2009

Seul le discours prononcé fait foi

Monsieur le Président,
Excellences,
Mesdames et Messieurs,

Mon pays soutient pleinement la déclaration prononcée hier par le Représentant permanent de la République tchèque au nom de l'Union européenne.

Comme on a déjà pu le dire lors de la session spéciale du Conseil des droits de l'homme sur la situation à Gaza, le Luxembourg est consterné face à la perte intolérable de vies humaines et la crise humanitaire majeure qui frappe la population civile à Gaza. Il faut que la violence cesse et il faut qu'elle cesse maintenant.

Tel qu'exigé par le Conseil de sécurité dans sa résolution 1860, un cessez-le feu durable et pleinement respecté doit être instauré immédiatement. Les tirs de roquette de Hamas sur Israël doivent cesser sans condition et l'action militaire israélienne doit prendre fin.

Les règles du droit international, et en particulier celles du droit international humanitaire, ne peuvent plus longtemps rester lettre morte. Le non-respect par une partie de ses obligations, ne dispense pas pour autant l'autre des siennes. Toutes les parties au conflit doivent respecter strictement les principes de distinction et de proportionnalité et prendre toutes les précautions possibles pour assurer une protection maximale de la population civile et des biens civils, du personnel médical et des hôpitaux et unités sanitaires.

Le fait que des installations de l'UNRWA, des transports humanitaires, des lieux de refuge sous l'emblème des Nations Unies sont la cible de tirs et de bombardements est tout simplement inacceptable.

L'accès, la fourniture et la distribution sans entrave dans tout Gaza de l'aide humanitaire, y compris les vivres, le carburant et les traitements médicaux, doit être assurée.

Monsieur le Président,

Il est évident que de cet affrontement il ne peut en ressortir de gagnant. Il ne saurait y avoir de solution militaire au conflit israélo-palestinien, ni à Gaza ni ailleurs. Une paix durable ne peut être que le fruit d'un processus politique aboutissant à l'établissement d'un Etat palestinien viable, indépendant et démocratique, vivant aux côtés d'Israël dans la paix et la sécurité, dans des frontières sûres et reconnues.

Je vous remercie.



MALDIVES

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Statement by H.E. Mr. Ahmed Khaleel, Permanent Representative of the Maldives to the United Nations, at the Tenth Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly on the Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, 15 January 2009

Mr President,

At the outset, let me congratulate you for resuming the Tenth Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly to consider the urgent and dangerous situation unfolding in the Gaza Strip. We believe that it is timely and appropriate, as the escalating violence and bloodshed in Gaza not only has the potential for disastrous consequences for the region, but also for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. President,

The Maldives have been following the recent developments in Gaza and the Occupied Territories with grave concern. We are particularly alarmed and angered by the inhuman and shameful acts being committed by Israel against the defenseless Palestinian civilians, especially women and children.

The Maldives strongly and forcefully condemns the disproportionate and excessive military force being unleashed by Israel against the civilian population in Gaza causing death and destruction of hundreds of innocent Palestinian lives and property and injuring thousands more over the past 20 days of violence.

The grave humanitarian crisis that had been created by the closure of Gaza and the escalation of violence and hostilities is unacceptable. The Israeli attack on the UNRWA school killing nearly 40 civilians including several innocent children and its attack on an aid-convoy of UNRWA and the killing of UN humanitarian workers signifies the blatant disregard by Israel for human lives and international humanitarian law.

The Maldives calls upon Israel to honour its international obligations as an occupying power and refrain from violating the human rights of the Palestinian people.

The Maldives also calls upon the international community to take urgent measures to put an end to the continuing aggression and immediately address the worsening humanitarian situation in Gaza. In this regard the Maldives is happy to see, for the first time in many years, the adoption of Security Council resolution 1860 on 8 January 2009 calling for an immediate ceasefire and setting in place a set of elements to address the humanitarian crisis. We also welcome the resolution adopted by the 9th special session of the Human Rights Council on 12 January 2009 calling for an independent investigation of all violations of international humanitarian law by the occupying power against the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Mr. President,

The Palestinian cause has always remained close to the hearts of the Maldivian people. Our support has been unwavering and steadfast. The Maldives sincerely believes that the two-state solution, a sovereign state of Israel and a sovereign state of Palestine, co-existing side by side harmoniously within fully recognized borders, remains the only viable option to ensure long-term peace, security and stability in the region. We once again take this opportunity to reiterate our solidarity with the Palestinian people's right for self-determination and establish an independent and sovereign homeland on their national soil, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

Mr. President,

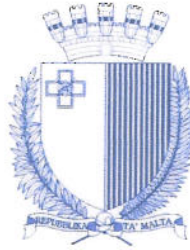
There is no alternative to dialogue. A just and comprehensive resolution of the conflict cannot be achieved by war and aggression, but through dialogue and negotiations based on the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. We therefore, call upon the two parties to immediately honour and implement Security Council resolution 1860 of 8 January 2009, cease hostilities and return to the negotiating table.

Before I conclude, Mr. President, let me take this opportunity to record our sincere appreciation to Your Excellency and to the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, for the exemplary leaderships that Your Excellency and the Secretary-General continue to demonstrate in your efforts to find a lasting solution to the conflict. Let me also on behalf of my country thank Egypt and all other States in the region for the most constructive and important role that they are playing to achieve a lasting ceasefire.

The Maldives assures this august Assembly of its readiness to do whatever it can to find a just and comprehensive settlement with the realization of two states living side by side in peace and within secure and recognized borders.

I thank you, Mr. President.

MALTA



Statement by

H.E. Mr. Saviour F. Borg
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Malta
to the United Nations

Tenth Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly on Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Mr. President,

Thank you for giving me the floor to make a statement. Malta supports the statement delivered by the Czech Republic on behalf of the European Union.

Friday, 16th January 2009

Mr. President,

United Nations, New York

During these last two days, the resumed Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly has heard repeatedly the urgent calls made by all UN Member States for an immediate cease-fire and the cessation of hostilities, the opening of all border crossings to allow the much-needed humanitarian aid to reach the beleaguered population in the Gaza Strip and the calls for a renewed effort in the search for a long-lasting solution to the conflict in the Middle East with its core the Palestinian Question.

The human tragedy and the humanitarian crisis which for these last few weeks have been unfolding in and around the Gaza Strip can no longer be condoned. The crisis of the region require from all of us an immediate response in order to alleviate the innocent victims from the suffering and anguish with which they are continuously being faced. As many of the interventions in this Assembly have highlighted, violence, the firing of rockets and military operations will not lead us anywhere except to a considerable loss of life, devastation and destruction, besides the life-long traumas of the innocent victims.

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The provisions of UN Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) must be fully respected and implemented. In this respect, Malta feels that the situation on the ground requires that commitments made by all concerned are appropriately adhered to through an international monitoring mechanism. Malta also believes that the Middle East Peace Process based on the Arab Peace Initiative and the agreements reached at the November 2007 Annapolis Conference for a two-State solution, must once again be resumed and pursued vigorously.

Malta also continues to strongly believe that a resolution of the Middle East conflict can only be achieved through peaceful dialogue where the ultimate and principal goal is the creation of a Palestinian State living side by side with Israel in peace and security.

Thank you.

NICARAGUA



Décimo Período Extraordinario de Emergencia de la Asamblea General

**Tema: "Las medidas israelíes ilegales en la Jerusalén Oriental
ocupada y el resto del territorio palestino ocupado"**

Intervención de

**S. E. Embajadora María Rubiales de Chamorro
Representante Permanente de Nicaragua ante las Naciones Unidas**

(Verificar con las palabras del orador)

Nueva York, 16 de enero de 2009

Señor Presidente:

Le agradecemos encarecidamente por haber respondido prontamente a la solicitud hecha por el Buró de Coordinación del Movimiento de Países No Alineados de convocar la reanudación del Décimo Período extraordinario de emergencia de la Asamblea General. Es hora de que el órgano más representativo y democrático de nuestra organización, ante la inercia del Consejo de Seguridad, se pronuncie exigiendo la detención de la matanza, del genocidio que desde el 27 de diciembre pasado lleva a cabo Israel en contra de la población civil indefensa de la Franja de Gaza, y condene en los términos más enérgicos esta agresión genocida.

Como hemos expresado en otras ocasiones el pueblo nicaragüense ve con gran tristeza la situación del pueblo palestino en la Franja de Gaza, en donde una vez más este heroico pueblo es víctima de ataques genocidas israelí por tierra, mar y aire. Israel se ha convertido en opresor y victimario del pueblo palestino por largos 60 años, y los *crueles ataques israelí* injustos y desproporcionados son una continuación de la situación insostenible que vive el enclave víctima permanente de un bloqueo económico y de graves restricciones a sus derechos humanos básicos. La tragedia humanitaria se ha profundizado debido a la incesante agresión criminal israelí con armas sofisticadas desde el 27 de diciembre de 2008.

Según datos proporcionados el día de ayer había 1013 muertos y más de 5000 heridos, la mayoría niños y mujeres. Esta cifra es aproximadamente el doble de la del 8 de enero fecha en que se aprobó la resolución 1860 (2009) del Consejo de Seguridad, sin que hasta el momento este órgano haya adoptado medidas reales, concretas y eficaces en el terreno para impedir la continuación de esta matanza. El mundo es testigo del aumento diario de muertos y heridos durante las tres semanas transcurridas desde el inicio de esta última agresión genocida israelí, y esta agresión pareciera no tener fin, incluso en las noticias de esta mañana fuerzas israelíes atacaron la Sede de las Naciones Unidas en Gaza que servía de refugio a cientos de personas que buscaban protección de la Organización ante los ataques genocidas de que son objeto de parte de fuerzas israelí. También hemos sido espectadores de cómo han sido usada armas prohibidas por el derecho internacional humanitario contra los civiles, como el fósforo blanco empleado incluso contra niños y como se ha impedido que organizaciones humanitarias, como el Comité Internacional de la Cruz Roja pudieran llegar a asistir a las víctimas.

Ha quedado claro con la aprobación de la resolución 1860 (2009) y otros ejemplos de resoluciones del Consejo de Seguridad sobre el Oriente Medio que existe una desconexión entre las resoluciones aprobadas y las acciones del Consejo para ponerlas en prácticas sobre el terreno. Israel, la Potencia ocupante de Israel, ha pisoteado la Carta de las Naciones Unidas, el Derecho Internacional incluido el Derecho Internacional Humanitario y todas sus responsabilidades morales y éticas. El Consejo debe cumplir con su obligación de conformidad con la Carta de mantener la paz y la seguridad internacionales, y por consiguiente de suprimir todo acto de agresión o de quebrantamiento de la paz.

Nos preguntamos, señor Presidente, ¿cómo pueden justificarse estos actos desproporcionados de barbarie israelí? ¿Cómo pueden justificarse la muerte ya de más de mil civiles, incluyendo centenares de niños y mujeres con un supuesto argumento de legítima defensa? ¿Cuántas mujeres y niños más tendrán que morir para que se detenga esta masacre? Cuándo se levantarán los cierres de la franja de Gaza y se permitirá el acceso sin obstáculo alguno de la ayuda humanitaria?

Señor Presidente:

El hecho de que el Consejo de Seguridad no actúe, ni cumpla con las responsabilidades que le incumben, no exime a los Estados Miembros de la obligación que les impone la Carta, ni a las Naciones Unidas de la responsabilidad que tienen en virtud de la misma, de mantener la paz y la seguridad internacionales.

Hemos visto pronunciamientos de diversos organismos y entidades internacionales condenando la agresión israelí y pidiendo el cese al fuego, a la matanza de palestinos, entre estos organismos se encuentran el Comité de los Derechos del Niño, el Consejo de Derechos Humanos, UNICEF, y la UNESCO, así como de la abrumadora mayoría de los Estados que conforman la Comunidad Internacional. También van en aumento en todo el mundo

movilizaciones populares que repudian la masacre e invasión de israelí contra Gaza. No podemos permanecer impasibles mientras se producen cada día decenas de muertes y heridos de civiles inocentes, todos los actores internacionales deben trabajar para la consecución de lograr un alto al fuego, poner fin a los ataques militares y los bombardeos que está sufriendo la Franja de Gaza.

Señor Presidente:

La Asamblea General no puede dejar de manifestarse, siendo el órgano más democrático y representativo de las Naciones Unidas, tiene el deber y la obligación de pronunciarse acerca de las preocupaciones de la Comunidad Internacional sobre la situación en Gaza, y alzar su voz y su peso para exigir el cese inmediato del fuego y el respeto de la potencia ocupante del Derecho Internacional y del Derecho Internacional Humanitario. La Asamblea, representante de 192 Estados miembros de nuestra Organización tiene la imperiosa obligación de ejercer presión por medio de una resolución, que tenga en cuenta la crítica situación en Gaza y lo expresado por los miembros del Movimiento de los Países No Alineados y otros Estados. Que debe pedir el cese al fuego inmediato, la retirada inmediata e incondicional de Israel de todos los territorios palestinos y árabes ocupados, condenar en los términos más enérgicos esta agresión genocida, condenar las prácticas de exterminio de Israel en Gaza, exigir que no se reanuden las hostilidades, a abrir todos los cruces fronterizos y permitir el acceso humanitario a la población civil brutalmente agredida.

Debe así mismo, establecer un mecanismo de monitoreo, garantizar la protección de los civiles, asegurar el respeto del Derecho Internacional y el Derecho Internacional Humanitario, como contribuir al fortalecimiento del imperio de la ley mediante el apoyo de un mecanismo penal para que se tomen las medidas necesarias para enjuiciar a los responsables de crímenes de guerra, crímenes contra la paz y crímenes de lesa humanidad incluido el genocidio, buscar el fortalecimiento del proceso de paz general, y asegurar que el pueblo palestino pueda ejercer su derecho inalienable a la libre determinación con la creación del Estado Palestino tomando como base las fronteras anteriores al 4 de junio de 1967, con Jerusalén Oriental como capital.

Señor Presidente:

Mi gobierno apoya todas las iniciativas que tengan como objetivo poner término lo antes posible a este genocidio, y colaborar en los órganos de nuestra Organización y con el Movimiento de los Países No Alineados en ese sentido.

El silencio ante esta barbarie es complicidad y eso no es aceptado por los pueblos del mundo. En América Latina y el Caribe, Medio Oriente, Asia, Europa, África, inclusive en los EEUU e Israel, la población se ha tomado las calles demandando que se detenga el genocidio del pueblo palestino, exigiendo la libertad de Palestina.

Nicaragua reitera su absoluta y total solidaridad al hermano pueblo palestino en su lucha por la libertad y su Estado de Palestina, y observa con gran satisfacción la iniciativa que fuera anunciada ayer en su alocución por el Representante Permanente del Estado de Qatar, de que Su Alteza Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa, Emir del Estado de Qatar ha decidido establecer un fondo para la reconstrucción de Gaza, al que dicho Estado ha anunciado que contribuirá con la suma de 250 millones de dólares. De la misma manera, hemos visto con beneplácito el llamado que el Emir hizo a los otros Estados árabes para organizar una operación de transporte marítimo para llevar asistencia humanitaria a la Franja de Gaza lo más pronto posible.

Señor Presidente, quisiera terminar mi intervención, con las palabras que pronunciara el Comandante Daniel Ortega, Presidente de Nicaragua al referirse a este tema: "Con la autoridad del pueblo nicaragüense, nosotros, en nombre de la paz y en nombre de Dios, le pedimos a la comunidad internacional que, de una vez por todas, dé los pasos correspondientes para que las tropas del Estado de Israel abandonen el territorio palestino".

Muchas gracias.

Mr President

The Security Council has called for an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire, leading to the full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza.

The Foreign Minister of Norway added his voice to all those in the Security Council who demanded an immediate ceasefire. We now demand that Security Council resolution 1860 is fully implemented by all parties.

Hamas' launching of rockets targeting civilians in Israel must stop.

Israel's shelling of Gaza must stop. Israel must withdraw its troops from Gaza.

We place our hope in the Egyptian initiative for an immediate ceasefire.

At the same time, the on-going violence in Gaza has created new and urgent humanitarian needs. The Security Council entrusted the Ad-Hoc Liaison Committee with alleviating the humanitarian and economic situation in Gaza. As Chair of the Ad-Hoc Liaison Committee, Norway stands ready to convene an international donor conference to mobilise international support for the rebuilding of Gaza. Humanitarian assistance must be channelled through existing channels, in particular the UN-system on the ground.

International humanitarian law is crystal clear: civilians must be protected.

Norway strongly condemns Israel's shelling of the Headquarters of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in Gaza. UNRWA is the lifeline and the safety net for hundreds of thousands of Palestinians. UNRWA has continued to deliver assistance to Palestinian refugees under dangerous circumstances throughout this conflict. Norway also strongly condemns Israel's shelling of the al-Quds Hospital of the Palestinian Red Crescent. Such attacks are completely unacceptable and contrary to international law.

Mr President

We reiterate our demand for an immediate ceasefire to alleviate the suffering of the civilian population in Gaza and to lay the foundations for a lasting peace.

Thank you, Mr President



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Statement by

**Ambassador Farukh Amil
Acting Permanent Representative of Pakistan**

**in the
Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly
on illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem
and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

New York
16 January 2009

**Statement by Ambassador Farukh Amil, Acting Permanent Representative of
Pakistan in the Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly on Illegal
Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied
Palestinian Territory
16 January 2009**

Mr. President,

1. We thank you for your timely and important statement. Pakistan supports the convening of this emergency special session of the General Assembly in view of the grave crisis and calamitous situation in Gaza. At a moment when the Security Council has been unable to shoulder its responsibility, the General Assembly has been obliged to step forward and play its rightful role under the Charter. This meeting also reaffirms the permanent obligation of the United Nations towards the resolution of the Palestine issue.

2. For the last 21 days, the international community has witnessed, in utter shock and disbelief, the unfolding of an unimaginable human tragedy and humanitarian catastrophe resulting from the ongoing campaign of terror and abominable crimes of Israel, the occupying power, against the 1.5 million Palestinian people incarcerated in Gaza. Israel has blatantly defied world-wide calls for immediate cessation of hostilities, lifting of Gaza's blockade and provision of unimpeded humanitarian assistance. With complete impunity, it has flagrantly violated international human rights and international humanitarian law, particularly its obligations under the 4th Geneva Convention.

3. On its part, the Security Council has yet again failed to fulfill its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It failed to act quickly and resolutely to stop the aggression and to protect the innocent civilians of Gaza. It dragged its feet as the occupying power escalated its killing spree in Gaza. Belatedly, albeit reluctantly and under immense international pressure and by the growing body count of civilians, the Council adopted resolution 1860 on 8 January. Though not an entirely satisfactory and fair decision, that resolution instilled hope for a ceasefire. The international community including the visiting high level Arab Ministerial delegation sincerely expected that violence would stop henceforth. Unfortunately, but consistent with its track record, the Council disappointed once again. It failed miserably. In fact, it did not even try to enforce compliance of its resolution, which was reduced to a farce. The massacre of Gaza meanwhile continued right under the Council's watch. Indeed the Council remains "seized of the situation", for whatever that means.

4. Under the circumstances, the international community is posed with a serious question: can it afford to wait another day while innocent civilians, women and children are killed, maimed, brutalized and terrorized by the Israeli war machine? The answer is “no”. Silence and inaction in such a situation is tantamount to complicity with the ongoing crimes and killings in Gaza.

5. Mr. President, Pakistan stands in complete solidarity with the Palestinian people, whose pain and suffering in this hour of trial, we fully share and understand. The sentiments of sympathy and support of the people of Pakistan for the people of Gaza and the question of Palestine have been expressed through all means - peace demonstrations, statements of our President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, adoption of a unanimous resolution by the National Assembly of Pakistan on 12 January, besides other diplomatic efforts in the context of the OIC, NAM and the United Nations. We join the international community in strongly condemning this latest Israeli aggression in Gaza, which is in fact a sequel of its decades long policy of aggression against the Palestinian people and the occupation of the Palestinian land. We support the unanimous demand to bring an immediate and complete end to this aggression, and to address its causes and consequences in a just manner.

6. Mr. President, just action can only result from a just and objective understanding of the situation and the genesis of the problem. We wish to reiterate and highlight the following points in this context:

- First, it needs to be recalled that the besieged populations of Gaza are mostly the Palestinians who were originally dispossessed and driven from their own homes by the Israeli occupation.
- Second, under decades of occupation, the Palestinian people have suffered the worst kinds of human rights violations and collective punishment, which were further aggravated by the callous blockade imposed by the occupying power on Gaza.
- Third, rocket fire is only one aspect of the frustration expressed by a section of this oppressed and deprived population. We have called for an end to the firing of these rockets which do not serve the Palestinian cause in any way. However, attempts to justify the overwhelming force and massively disproportionate response by Israel to these rockets are entirely misplaced and unjust. This is besides the fact that it was Israel which first violated the six month temporary ceasefire much before it expired. In fact, Israel’s refusal to lift the blockade constituted a daily and constant violation of the truce.
- Fourth, no attempts or tactics by the occupying power can be allowed to mask the root cause and origins of the conflict, which are: occupation,

human rights violations, collective punishment of the Palestinian people, and the denial of their right to self-determination.

7. Mr. President, facts and figures being reported from Gaza are earth-shaking:

- More than 1000 Palestinians have been martyred. Gaza is running out of burial space.
- Over 5000 have been injured. There is no way of treating them. Hospitals are not only short of supplies but have themselves become targets. Rescue and relief workers are being attacked.
- Nearly 40% of all casualties are children and women. The international community is aghast by heart wrenching and appalling images of dead and injured children. Those alive are short of food and essential supplies.
- Thousands are homeless, shelter-less surviving in the cold and dark. Displaced they are, but within the prison. There is nowhere to escape.
- The scale of destruction especially targeted against civilians and civilian infrastructure is colossal. Nothing and no one has been spared. Ironically, those who have absolved themselves of preventing this destruction are talking of reconstruction.
- The Fourth Geneva Convention that prohibits collective penalties or collective punishment of the civilian population, as well as the three cardinal principles of international humanitarian law, namely proportionality, distinction, and precaution, have been grossly violated in the ongoing conflict in Gaza.

Mr. President

8. If things were not bad enough already, there are now reports of white phosphorous being used. The use of this element regardless of purpose adds another cruel layer to this tragedy. Furthermore what can be more galling for the international community and this august body than on the very day the Secretary General of this Organization visited Israel, Israeli shells smashed through the UNRWA buildings. We trust the bitter irony is not lost on the international community.

9. The crisis in Gaza requires an urgent, collective and effective response from the international community. If the Security Council has not been allowed to act, this Assembly has to assume responsibility. In recommending action, the General Assembly may need to recognize the international condemnation of the situation in Gaza. It should distinguish between the aggressor and the aggrieved. It

should be able to capitalize on the worldwide backing for an immediate and fully respected ceasefire, and put its weight behind that call. It should compel Israel to immediately stop its aggression and completely lift the siege of Gaza. It can recommend the establishment of appropriate mechanism to ensure protection of civilian population and monitoring of ceasefire in Gaza. It should demand unhindered and safe access and conditions for humanitarian work. It should also demand full respect and compliance of all parties for international human rights and humanitarian laws. It should make clear that there will be accountability for all violations of these obligations. It can pronounce its support for the ongoing efforts by the Secretary General, and regional and international partners to secure peace. More specifically, the General Assembly can endorse its support for the resolution adopted by the special session of the Human Rights Council, as well as for resolution 1860 adopted by the Security Council, and call for implementation of those resolutions.

10. Mr. President, there is a need to act urgently. Failure to stop the Israeli aggression in Gaza will perpetuate the cycle of violence, foment desperation and anger and lead to escalation of tensions in the region. Perhaps some may not have fully grasped the consequences - its biggest casualty could be the peace process. Therefore at stake is the international community's shared objective of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and the resolution of the Palestinian question. We believe the choice is clear.

11. A solution lies not in use of force, whose futility has been exposed time and again, but in dialogue and negotiations. Israel must demonstrate its sincerity and desire for peace. Its actions prove otherwise. I would like to conclude by reiterating Pakistan's steadfast and complete support for the achievement of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to exercise self-determination and sovereignty in their independent and viable State of Palestine, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. Thank you.

Intervención de la Misión de Panamá
Por el Embajador Adjunto, Giancarlo Soler Torrijos, durante la
cotinuación de sesión de emergencia de la Asamblea General
16 de enero de 2009

Gracias Sr. Presidente.

En primer lugar, mi delegación desea expresar su respaldo a su decisión de reanudar esta sesión de emergencia. La comunidad internacional no puede dejar de ponerle atención a una situación que continúa empeorando con el paso de los días. La situación en el terreno es grave y ello requiere que este foro se active y emita su recomendación sobre esta cuestión.

Sr. Presidente,

Panamá ya ha dejado constancia sobre su profunda consternación ante la situación a la cual es sometida la población de Gaza. Ha condenado el incumplimiento del cese al fuego y ha hecho un llamado tanto a Israel como a Hamas a detener de inmediato y sin condiciones la violencia, a tomar las medidas necesarias para evitar víctimas civiles, y a permitir el suministro irrestricto de la asistencia médica y humanitaria.

A su vez, Panamá ha condenado fuertemente los ataques de Hamas contra la población Israelí, y también ha reconocido el derecho de Israel a defenderse. Panamá también ha resaltado que ese derecho no puede esgrimirse incondicionalmente, el uso de la fuerza debe limitarse por los principios de la proporcionalidad y de la necesidad: el lanzamiento esporádico de cohetes contra civiles en un lado, por más grave que ello sea, no justifica la destrucción, en el otro lado, de infraestructura y muerte de niños y civiles palestinos en magnitudes inconcebibles como la que están ocurriendo ahora. La Carta y el derecho internacional impone límites a ese derecho a la defensa: ello no puede hacerse desconociendo fronteras, imponiendo su soberanía ni violando las normas del derecho internacional humanitario. En este sentido, mi delegación considera oportuno el llamado del Secretario General a que se realice una investigación

independiente sobre el cumplimiento del derecho internacional humanitario en Gaza durante este conflicto.

Panamá reconoce los esfuerzos que han emprendido distintos actores regionales para intentar resolver esta crisis, en particular Egipto, la Liga Árabe, y otros actores en Europa y América Latina que han manifestado el sentir de que sólo un renovado cese al fuego puede abrir la puerta a establecer las mínimas condiciones aceptables para el pueblo de Gaza, y que han señalado que sólo la continuación de las negociaciones políticas – entre las facciones palestinas, y entre Israel y una Autoridad de Palestina que negocie por todos los palestinos -- podrá resultar en una solución duradera a este conflicto.

La proliferación de esas iniciativas indican que el Consejo de Seguridad, principal responsable de velar por la paz y la seguridad internacionales, no está cumpliendo a cabalidad con su tarea. El Consejo de Seguridad acaba de aprobar una resolución al respecto que continúa sin hacerse efectiva. Es de todos conocido que algunos de los estados miembros del Consejo que apoyan a una u otra de las partes, lo hacen de modo incondicional, sin el necesario reparo a la particularidad de las acciones o decisiones que éstas van adquiriendo. Como consecuencia, hasta el día de hoy no parece haber dentro del Consejo ni la voluntad ni la capacidad para promover un entendimiento que facilite una solución pacífica. Ante esta incapacidad del Consejo, las iniciativas de paz aparecen y desaparecen sin consecuencias significativas. Panamá hace un llamado al Consejo, y a sus miembros, a cumplir con la responsabilidad que la Carta les impone, a hacer un verdadero esfuerzo por entender las causas y sobre todo los efectos del conflicto a nivel internacional, y proponer y tratar de hacer cumplir fórmulas y soluciones orientadas hacia la paz.

PORTUGAL

United Nations General Assembly Tenth emergency special session

Illegal Israel actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the
Occupied Palestinian Territory

Speech delivered by
**H.E. Mr. José Filipe Moraes Cabral, Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of Portugal to the United Nations**

New York, 16 January 2009

(Check against delivery)

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Mr. President,

I would like to add some comments on my national capacity to the statement delivered by the Czech Republic on behalf of the European Union.

It is with the deepest concern that we continue to follow the violence, human rights violations, civilian deaths, including women and children and the worsening humanitarian situation in and around Gaza. We join our voice to others in the International Community calling for an immediate ceasefire and for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Gaza, in accordance with the UNSC resolution 1860.

Portugal deeply regrets the acts of violence that caused such a high number of civilian casualties. We condemn both the rocket attacks by Hamas and the Israeli military operation. Both must cease immediately.

We invite all parties to do everything in their power to enable the alleviation of the current dramatic humanitarian situation. To this sense we encourage Israel to create the necessary security conditions to allow for the distribution of humanitarian assistance, including medical treatment to the affected population. We also urge the Parties to fully respect their obligations under international humanitarian law.

In view of the seriousness of the humanitarian crisis, Portugal decided to make an extraordinary contribution of 400.000 dollars to the Emergency Appeal launched by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in the Middle East.

Mr. President,

There is no military solution for the conflict in the Middle East. Portugal, along with its European Union partners, continues to support the ongoing diplomatic initiatives aimed at stopping the current crisis and underlines the risks of radicalisation emerging from the continuing hostilities.

We appeal to all parties to resume the principles and objectives of the Annapolis Conference in order to achieve a lasting peace in the Middle East, based on a two State solution with the establishment of an independent, viable and democratic Palestinian State living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbours.

Thank you, Mr. President.

بِسْمِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



STATEMENT OF THE STATE OF QATAR

BY

**H.E. AMBASSADOR NASSIR ABDULAZIZ AL-NASSER
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF**

QATAR

TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT

**THE (RESUMED) TENTH EMERGENCY SPECIAL
SESSION**

OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**THE ILLEGAL ISRAELI ACTIONS IN OCCUPIED EAST
JERUSALEM AND THE REST OF THE OCCUPIED
PALESTINIAN TERRITORY**

NEW YORK, 15 JANUARY 2009

In the name of God the Merciful the Compassionate

Mr. President,

I would like at the outset to thank you very much for your valuable efforts to convene this special session under the critical and tragic circumstances experienced by the Palestinian population in Gaza Strip that is still covered by the thick clouds billowing from the fiercest-yet bombardment and destruction since the beginning of the military campaign on Gaza by Israel, the occupying Power. The Israeli occupying forces have killed more than 1000 civilian Palestinians, including at least 350 infants and children and 180 women, and seriously wounded more than 4850 civilian Palestinians, including more than 100 infants and children.

Those horrifying figures of those fallen victims highlight the seriousness of the situation endured by the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza Strip, particularly by the children and their families. Entire families have been killed and buried alive under the rubble of their homes that collapsed over their heads after being hit with rockets and artillery. The Palestinian people in Gaza live in a state of constant fear that will have a large-scale impact on the short and long terms in view of the worsening critical humanitarian situation, as stated by the reports of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and UNICEF.

Mr. President,

The vicious Israeli aggression on Gaza Strip has entered its 20th day. The Israeli forces continue their intensive onslaught on civilian targets in the most densely populated areas of the world, using prohibited substances, including the substance of white phosphorus, which has caused deep burns and resulted in the death of many victims among the Palestinians, started fires that could not be put out, and caused long-term environmental damages. This whole behavior constitutes a flagrant violation of the international humanitarian law and the international human rights laws. Furthermore, Israel has officially ignored the implementation of Security Council resolution 1860 which called on Israel, *inter alia*, to order an immediate cease-fire. It has also ignored the resolution of the Human Rights Council adopted during its ninth special session, which called on Israel to stop its direct targeting of civilians and civilian targets, including educational, health and cultural buildings protected under the international law.

Mr. President,

Similarly to other peoples of the region and the world, it feels painful for us, in the State of Qatar, to see the pictures of the Palestinian victims captured by the cameras from Gaza. Such pictures will not fade from our memory. How can we, Mr. President, forget the image of that little girl who was buried under the rubble, with only her head showing from under the soil like a puppet of flesh and bones? Such pictures embody a tragedy that reflects the unimaginable reality in which the Palestinians of Gaza Strip currently live. Could somebody tell us what action is being taken by virtue of the United Nations legal mechanisms related to children, women and persons with disabilities? What is being done about the crimes being committed against those groups in Gaza Strip? Each and every massacre committed constitute war crimes that warrant an independent international investigation to punish the perpetrators for their actions. In this context, we welcome the decision of the Human Rights Council of 12 January, which calls on the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the special rapporteurs of the United Nations, including the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, to submit reports on human rights violations by the Israeli aggression against the Palestinians in Gaza Strip. The same resolution has called for establishing an independent fact-finding mission to investigate the crimes committed against the Palestinians in Gaza Strip during this aggression. The same resolution has also requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to conduct an independent investigation on the attacks against UNRWA schools that claimed the lives of young and elderly civilians.

Mr. President,

The recent tragic events have prompted His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar, to address a second speech to the international community on the evening of 14 January in which he called for acting to hold Israel accountable before national and international tribunals for the war crimes against humanity it has been and still is committing. His Highness has also launched an initiative to establish a fund for the reconstruction of Gaza, and announced a 250 million dollar contribution by the State of Qatar in support of the yet-to-be-created fund. His Highness called further to set up a seahift, in which all the Arab countries would participate, in order to transport humanitarian assistance to the Gaza Strip as soon as possible.

Mr. President,

In the context of this tragedy, it is truly regrettable that some equate between the criminal and the victim and justify the massacres committed against the Palestinian people in Gaza Strip, under the pretext of Israel's right to self-defense, thus turning a blind eye on all the war crimes committed by Israel in Gaza Strip, while they themselves call for the implementation of the international humanitarian law and human rights laws and for the fight against impunity in other settings and situations. What about the right of the Palestinians to be protected, to live in peace and safety, and to get rid of the occupation? And what about their right to self-determination, to equity and to justice and to punish those who committed crimes against their sons and daughters?

Last but not least, we have come to this forum to appeal to the international community to act immediately to put an end to the Israeli crimes being committed in Gaza Strip and to hold Israel accountable for its criminal acts against the Palestinian people in Gaza Strip. We support a resolution that binds Israel to implement the resolutions of the United Nations and the Security Council, starting with the immediate implementation of resolution 1860 (2009) that was most recently adopted by the Security Council. The credibility of this United Nations body is at stake, so let us act by taking the path towards restoring credibility to this entity among our peoples before it is too late.

I thank you Mr. President.

H.E. Ambassador PARK In-kook
Permanent Representative

10th Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly on Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

16 January 2009

New York

<Check against Delivery>

Mr. President,

1. The Republic of Korea is deeply concerned over the continued violence, casualties, and suffering of civilians in and around Gaza. My delegation deplores the ongoing hostilities and would like to express our sincere condolences to the families of the victims.
2. We are deeply disturbed by the loss of civilian life at the UN school in Jabaliya. Particularly, we are profoundly disturbed that the compound of the UN Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in Gaza has been shelled, which resulted in many casualties and destroyed a considerable amount of aid. We join the Secretary-General in expressing our shock and outrage.
3. My delegation believes that the international community should make every effort to help to ensure the cessation of the ongoing violence. I once again call on all parties to the conflict to implement a ceasefire, and in particular, to secure unimpeded humanitarian access to the civilian population in Gaza.

Mr. President,

4. The Republic of Korea fully supports the international efforts to bring an end to this tragic situation. In this regard, I welcome the adoption on 8 January 2009 of the Security Council resolution 1860, calling an immediate, durable, and fully-respected ceasefire in Gaza that would lead to the full withdrawal of

Israeli forces. My delegation calls upon all parties to implement the Security Council resolution, thus reaching an immediate ceasefire, allowing the passage of humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians, and halting the trafficking of arms and ammunitions into the territory.

5. My delegation fully supports the ongoing diplomatic efforts made by Egypt, France, and others to bring both sides together to agree on a lasting ceasefire, work for reconciliation, and resume regional peace initiatives. My delegation is deeply grateful to the Secretary-General for his efforts, which are helpful in bringing an end to the conflict and dealing with the serious humanitarian situation on the ground. I encourage all parties to redouble their thier efforts so that the current visit of the Secretary-General to Middle East will lead to a ceasefire and meaningful negotiations.

Mr. President,

6. The people in Gaza require immediate humanitarian aid. Food, medical supplies, and fuel must be delivered to Gaza. The Republic of Korea has a great concern about the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza and has provided 300 thousand dollars worth of emergency humanitarian assistance for the people of Gaza.
7. The Republic of Korea has grave concerns regarding the negative implications this round of fighting will have on the long-term prospects for peace and stability in the region. My delegation believes that only a negotiated political solution is mutually acceptable to all parties of the conflict. The solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict must be based on the process set out in Annapolis and in accordance with the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, in particular land for peace, the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and the Quartet's roadmap. It must result in the establishment of an independent, democratic, and viable Palestinian State living side by side with Israel in peace and security.
8. The Republic of Korea has been a resolute and consistent support of the Middle East Peace process. My delegation believes that the peace process between Israel and Palestine is of critical importance to the peace and stability of the region as well as the world as a whole. We join the international community in calling upon all parties to take their differences to the negotiating table for a peaceful resolution of the conflict, working to ensure a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in Middle East.

Thank you.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Rwanda to the United Nations



STATEMENT

BY

H.E. AMBASSADOR JOSEPH NSENGIMANA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF
RWANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP

BEFORE THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESUMED 10th EMERGENCY SPECIAL
SESSION ON ILLEGAL ISRAELI ACTIONS IN THE OCCUPIED
PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

NEW YORK, 16TH JANUARY, 2009.

Please check against delivery

Mr. President,

I have the honour to deliver the following statement on behalf of the African group. Allow me at the outset to thank you for convening the resumed Tenth Emergency Special Session on the Israeli Illegal Actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly the Gaza Strip. The African Group appreciates the high level of priority that you have devoted to this issue and to the continued suffering of the Palestinian people.

Mr. President,

We are 21 days into the present conflict in the Gaza Strip which has claimed close to 1,000 lives and resulted in over 4,000 injuries and still we see little if any sign of abatement. The already fragile humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip has deteriorated dramatically since Israel began its military offensive, with innocent civilians, particularly women and children bearing the brunt of the suffering. The African Group strongly condemns the loss of life on both sides and urges for an immediate cessation of hostilities.

Mr. President,

The African Group notes with regret that 8 days since the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1860 scant progress has been realised in its implementation. The African Group urges this emergency session to ensure that Security Council resolution 1860, which among other important provisions calls for “an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire and “the unimpeded provision and distribution throughout Gaza of humanitarian assistance, including food, fuel and medical treatment”, is implemented without further delay or preconditions.

We urge Israel to comply fully with the UN Security Council Resolution, to cease its massive attacks against the civilian population in the Gaza Strip and respect the provisions of international humanitarian law, by lifting the siege and ending the wanton destruction of life and property. We call upon both parties to cease all military activities and pursue the path of lasting peace guided by the current diplomatic efforts, including the Egyptian initiative.

Mr. President,

The African Group welcomes the ongoing efforts by the Secretary-General and other members of the international community that have mobilized to ensure a lasting solution to the present conflict is arrived at. The African Group wishes to pay special tribute to UNRWA and all other organizations that are actively engaged in alleviating the plight of the citizens of Gaza under the most of difficult of conditions. It is imperative that the International community remains actively seized of the situation in the Gaza Strip.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate that the African Group will continue to support all initiatives aimed at achieving a two-state-solution for the two peoples, the fighting has gone on for too long, the suffering of people has to stop.

I thank you.



SLOVENIA

**Statement by H.E. Ms. Sanja Štiglic
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations
at the Tenth Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly
January 16, 2009**

Mr. President,

Slovenia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered yesterday by the Czech Republic on behalf of the European Union and would like to make some additional comments in the national capacity.

Slovenia welcomes the adoption of the SC resolution 1860 and calls on the parties in conflict to immediately cease all acts of violence and respect their obligations under SC resolution, as well as the applicable international humanitarian and human rights laws. We strongly condemn attacks on schools and hospitals, on UN and ICRC personnel and facilities, including the shelling of UN premises in the Gaza Strip yesterday.

We are deeply concerned regarding the humanitarian situation in Gaza, where the suffering and anguish of the civilian population has escalated dramatically over the past days. Slovenian government therefore decided to allocate additional humanitarian assistance to the population of Gaza. It is of utmost importance that humanitarian aid reaches the people of Gaza without hindrance. We welcome the decision taken by Israeli authorities to extend the cessation of attacks, for humanitarian assistance to be delivered unimpeded. Humanitarian personnel must be guaranteed free and secure movement and access. Security and administrative arrangements must be clearly established and predictable without any preconditions.

The wounded and the seriously ill, for which medical assistance cannot be provided in Gaza, must be evacuated. The most fragile group of population – women and children – need protection. They live in shortage of basically everything – except violence.

However, it goes without saying that efficient humanitarian response is only possible if ceasefire is in place and all crossings are open.

In conclusion:

We call on both sides to cease fire immediately. The parties must restrain from any actions that would further threaten the viability of the comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In this context we strongly support Egypt in its ongoing efforts to achieve comprehensive and durable ceasefire as well as the activities of the UN SG Ban Ki-moon in the region.



ESPAÑA

Sexagésimo tercer período de sesiones de la Asamblea General

Décimo período extraordinario de sesiones de emergencia (reanudación)

Medidas ilegales israelíes en la Jerusalén Oriental ocupada y el resto del territorio palestino ocupado

Intervención del Representante Permanente de España ante Naciones Unidas, Embajador Juan Antonio Yáñez-Barnuevo

Nueva York, 16 de enero de 2009

(Cotejar con intervención definitiva)

Señor Presidente:

España se adhiere plenamente a la declaración efectuada ayer por el Representante de la República Checa en nombre de la Unión Europea.

El Gobierno español ha sido tajante en su condena de la espiral de violencia y de destrucción en Gaza, que ha causado más de mil muertos, la mayoría de ellos entre la población civil palestina, e incontables heridos.

El Gobierno español quiere reiterar nuevamente, ante esta Asamblea, su más enérgico rechazo, tanto de las conductas irresponsables que provocaron la ruptura de la tregua, como de las reacciones desproporcionadas y contrarias al derecho internacional humanitario que las han seguido. Unas y otras sólo han conseguido sumir nuevamente a la región, y a los pueblos que la habitan, en la desesperanza y en la frustración.

Debemos reafirmar el principio irrenunciable de que la población civil no puede ser tomada como rehén de los conflictos políticos. No hay una solución militar a la crisis en Gaza y, desde nuestra profunda amistad con el pueblo de Israel, así se lo hemos transmitido inequívocamente a su Gobierno.

El Gobierno español comprende bien que la seguridad es vital para Israel y sus ciudadanos, como lo es para cualquier sociedad y para cualquier Estado, pero pretender conseguir dicha seguridad fundamentalmente por la fuerza de las armas, sin atender a los daños enormes e irreparables causados a la población civil, es un camino sin salida.

Señor Presidente,

Desde el estallido de la crisis el pasado 27 de diciembre, el Gobierno español ha seguido atentamente la evolución de los hechos, haciendo valer toda la capacidad de interlocución de España en la región, manteniéndose para ello en contacto permanente con las partes y los principales actores regionales e internacionales.

En primer lugar, la atención del Gobierno español se centró en el aspecto humanitario de la crisis, haciéndose un importante esfuerzo para hacer llegar ayuda humanitaria a Gaza, de acuerdo con las peticiones del Gobierno palestino y de las agencias humanitarias. El mismo día 29 de diciembre llegaron las primeras ayudas y desde entonces se han aprobado paquetes especiales de ayuda, respectivamente valorados en 5 millones €, canalizado a través de la Agencia de Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados Palestinos en Oriente Próximo (UNRWA), y 1,5 millones €, a través del Comité Internacional de la Cruz Roja (CICR) y la Media Luna Roja. Además, se han enviado dos vuelos con material humanitario.

A este propósito, quisiera rendir un homenaje al personal humanitario internacional y, en particular, al de Naciones Unidas, especialmente tras el nuevo y más grave bombardeo

del complejo de UNRWA, ocurrido ayer en Gaza. El Gobierno español comparte la indignación del Secretario General y de toda la Organización, y apoya su solicitud de explicaciones al Gobierno israelí.

Tras la adopción de la resolución 1860 por el Consejo de Seguridad el pasado 8 de enero, el Gobierno español ha redoblado sus esfuerzos para apoyar la iniciativa de paz egipcia, así como los demás esfuerzos regionales e internacionales en curso, incluyendo los de la Unión Europea, con objeto de conseguir la aplicación urgente de dicha resolución, en particular el establecimiento de un alto el fuego inmediato y duradero, plenamente respetado por todas las partes, que conduzca a la retirada total de Gaza del ejército israelí.

Así, el Presidente del Gobierno español, Sr. Rodríguez Zapatero, recibió en Madrid, ese mismo día 8, al Presidente palestino, Sr. Abbas, quien también mantuvo un encuentro con S. M. El Rey, D. Juan Carlos I. A su vez, el Ministro español de Asuntos Exteriores, Sr. Moratinos, acaba de realizar una gira por la región, del 12 al 14 de enero, que le ha permitido mantener numerosos contactos con las autoridades egipcias, sirias, israelíes y palestinas, así como con el propio Secretario General de Naciones Unidas, presente también en la región.

También los estrechos lazos que España mantiene con Turquía, acrecentados desde el lanzamiento conjunto de la iniciativa para la Alianza de Civilizaciones, están resultando enormemente valiosos para contribuir de manera eficaz a los esfuerzos internacionales a favor de un alto el fuego inmediato, de conformidad con la resolución 1860 del Consejo de Seguridad.

Señor Presidente,

El Gobierno español, pese a los trágicos acontecimientos de los últimos días, está razonablemente convencido de que los esfuerzos internacionales en curso podrían dar pronto resultados positivos.

Es por ello por lo que deberíamos empezar a pensar en la oportunidad de poner en marcha un mecanismo internacional de coordinación y supervisión del alto el fuego, sobre la base del acuerdo de las partes. En todo caso, el Gobierno español desea aprovechar este foro para anunciar la disponibilidad de España para participar en dicho mecanismo internacional, que debería contar con el respaldo de las Naciones Unidas.

De la misma manera, deberemos trabajar intensamente para propiciar la reconciliación interpalestina bajo la autoridad del Presidente Abbas.

España tiene un firme compromiso con la paz en Oriente Medio, que ha demostrado en múltiples ocasiones. El Gobierno español está plenamente convencido de que la única solución a la crisis en Gaza pasa por recuperar un horizonte de diálogo que conduzca a un

acuerdo de paz, condición necesaria para evitar nuevos conflictos en la región, más allá de la franja de Gaza.

El Gobierno español va a trabajar incansablemente en pro de este objetivo, aprovechando sus estrechos lazos con todas las partes, así como con los principales actores regionales e internacionales, actuando de manera coordinada con todos ellos.

España está plenamente convencida del importante papel que también le corresponde a esta Asamblea en la búsqueda de una salida a la crisis en Gaza, en apoyo de los esfuerzos del Consejo de Seguridad y del Secretario General, dirigidos a conseguir un alto el fuego inmediato y duradero, de conformidad con la resolución 1860 del Consejo.

En este sentido, España estaría dispuesta a respaldar algún pronunciamiento por parte de la Asamblea General sobre la crisis en Gaza, siempre que sea dentro de esos parámetros y cuente con un amplio apoyo por parte del conjunto de los Estados miembros.

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.



S U D A N

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بيان

السيد السفير عبدالمحمود عبدالحليم
المندوب الدائم

أمام

الجلسة الإستثنائية الطارئة العاشرة للجمعية العامة
بشأن العدوان الإسرائيلي علي قطاع غزة

نيويورك ١٥/يناير/٢٠٠٩م

الرجاء المراحة قبل الإلقاء

السيد الرئيس ،،

ثلاثة أسابيع قد إنصرفت الآن منذ أن بدأت سلطات الإستعمار الإستيطاني في فلسطين المحتلة ، ولا تزال ، حملتها الإجرامية ضد غزة الصامدة .. تفتك بالأطفال بدم بارد ، تسحل النساء والشيوخ وتدمر الممتلكات .. إنها تستخف بكافة المبادئ الإنسانية ناهيك عن إستخفافها بالأمم المتحدة ، فلم تمضي أيام علي طردها للمقرر الخاص بحقوق الإنسان إلا وأتبع ذلك بقصفها المروع لمدرسة " الأنروا " لتفتك بالأطفال الذين إحتموا بمدرسة تديرها الأمم المتحدة .. لا عجب ، فهي ذات إسرائيل ، السلطة القائمة بالإحتلال ، التي قتلت الكونت برنادوت مبعوث الأمم المتحدة قبل عدة عقود خلت من القرن الماضي ، وهي ذات السلطة المحتلة التي تنتهك وعلي نحو سافر كافة قرارات الأمم المتحدة والشرعية الدولية.

السيد الرئيس ،،

ما أشبه الليلة بالبارحة .. إن ما يحدث بغزة اليوم يعيد إلي الأذهان أخريات أيام نظام الفصل العنصري بجنوب أفريقيا .. إذ كانت هنالك سويتو وشاريقيل فهنا دير ياسين وصبره وشاتيلا ومجزرة جنين وقانا وخان يونس وحي الزيتون ، وإذا كان عدوان - نظام الأبارتيد ضد دول المواجهة الأفريقية فهنا أيضاً عدوانها علي لبنان وإحتلالها المستمر للجولان السورية .. ونقول مجدداً ، ما أشبه الليلة بالبارحة : فإذا كان النظام العنصري في جنوب أفريقيا يتحجج بمبررات واهية مثل ما أسماه وجود القوات الكوبية في أنقولا فإن إسرائيل تبرر تعنتها في إنهاء الإحتلال بحجارة يقذفها أطفال يعلمون حقهم في مقاومة الإحتلال .. لا مقارنة إذن بين الضحية والجلاد .

السيد الرئيس ،،

إن علي هذه الجمعية الموقرة ، وقد طفق الكيل ، أن تطالب بقوة ، بضرورة الإيقاف الفوري للمجزرة الرهيبة ضد الشعب الفلسطيني بغزة وإيقاف حمام الدم وحملة ترويع

الأمنين ورفع الحصار فوراً عن غزة والسماح بدخول المساعدات الإنسانية .. وعلي الذين يتحدثون عن جرائم الإبادة والإفلات من العقاب إفادتنا ، ماذا هم فاعلون إزاء جرائم الإحتلال الإسرائيلي بغزة .. إن علي هذه الجمعية الموقرة المطالبة وبقوة ، بإنهاء الإحتلال وإقامة الدولة الفلسطينية المستقلة وعاصمتها القدس .. وبدون ذلك فستكون كل أيام الشعب الفلسطيني غزة.

لكم الشكر الجزيل ، سيدي الرئيس ، للإهتمام وللأهمية التي أسبغتموها علي قضية فلسطين منذ تسلمكم لرئاسة الدورة الثالثة والستين للجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة . إن جهودكم المقدره وتعاطف الملايين حول العالم مع محنة الشعب الفلسطيني هي خير دعم لطموحات وتطلعات ذلك الشعب في الحرية والإنعتاق... إننا نضم صوتنا أيضاً لبيان حركة عدم الإنحياز الذي أدلي به مندوب كوبا الموقر ، وكذلك بيان المجموعة العربية الذي أدلي به مندوب المغرب الموقر.

وشكراً جزيلاً لكم ، سيدي الرئيس ،،، .

SWEDEN



STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mr. Per Örnéus
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
34th plenary meeting

Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem
and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory:
draft resolution (A/ES-10/L.21) [5]

United Nations
New York

January 16, 2009

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

Mr. Chairman

To begin with Sweden fully aligns itself with the statement made by the Czech ambassador on behalf of the EU.

Sweden welcomes the adoption of the UNSCR 1860 and calls for its full and immediate implementation.

We strongly support the ongoing regional and international efforts to find a rapid solution to the crisis in accordance with 1860, including those of the Secretary General.

In this context we would also like to stress the need to reactivate the peace process and encourage inter-Palestinian reconciliation.

Sweden expresses its grave concern of the deepening humanitarian crisis.

The civilian population is subjected to untold suffering.

We are particularly concerned about the situation of the children, who constitute almost 60 percent of the population in Gaza.

Sweden condemns the Israeli attack on the UNRWA headquarter building in Gaza yesterday. It is unacceptable that UNRWA, the major UN actor in Gaza at the moment, is attacked. International humanitarian law clearly states that humanitarian and medical personnel must be protected at all times. As a result of the attack, UNRWA's ability to operate, including distributing well-needed food, medicines and fuel, has been severely affected.

Sweden strongly emphasizes that all civilians as well as wounded and sick, medical personnel and medical buildings must be protected in accordance with international humanitarian law.

Sweden urges all parties to the conflict to comply with international humanitarian law.

Thank you.



**Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania
to the United Nations**

(CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY)

STATEMENT BY

**MR. JUSTIN SERUHERE, MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY
OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

**DURING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY EMERGENCY SESSION OF
AGENDA ITEM 5:
ILLEGAL ISRAEL ACTIONS IN OCCUPIED EAST JERUSALEM AND
THE REST OF THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY**

FRIDAY, 16 JANUARY 2009

**STATEMENT BY JUSTIN N SERUHERE, MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY OF
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
DURING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY EMERGENCY SESSION ON THE
AGENDA ITEM 5: ILLEGAL ISRAEL ACTIONS IN OCCUPIED EAST
JERUSALEM AND THE REST OF THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN
TERRITORY, NEW YORK 16 JANUARY 2009**

Mr. President,

We thank you for calling this meeting and express our support to your statement as well as that of the Deputy Secretary General.

The government of the United Republic of Tanzania is deeply concerned with the situation in the Middle East, particularly the conflict between Israel and Palestine exacerbated by the raging armed conflict in the Gaza strip. For the past weeks we have been witnessing the suffering of civilians being caught up in the conflict. We have a saying that when two elephants fight, it is the grass that is being hurt, and in this conflict it is the women and the children who are suffering the most. The humanitarian situation in Gaza is a cause for concern. It is thus important for the International community to act in unity and swiftly to de-escalate the crisis and ease the suffering of the people of Gaza.

Mr. President,

The government of Tanzania thus calls for immediate cease-fire and cessation of all hostilities between the two parties, to allow for a negotiated solution to take place to end the conflict as well as to allow for the flow of humanitarian assistance. The United Republic of Tanzania calls for a solution of two States, Palestine and Israel living together in peace and security. We believe that the United Nations, through the Security Council has a central role to play in ending this crisis. We support the work of the council and urge for an appropriate consensus on the way forward to be reached immediately.

Mr. President,

Resolving the Palestine question is essential to the attainment of durable peace in the Middle East. Time for the UN and the International community to act on the crisis in Gaza and secure a solution to the Palestinian question is now not tomorrow. It is as imperative as it is doable.

I thank you.



PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR BAKI ILKIN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY TO THE UN

AT THE TENTH EMERGENCY SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

New York , 15 January 2009

www.un.int/turkey

Mr. President,

As we enter the 20th day of the Israeli operations in Gaza, the death toll continues to rise, which is now over one thousand, which includes great number of women and children. Entire families have perished in the violence. For the people of Gaza, the borders are closed; there is no place to go. Even the UN headquarters and buildings are not spared from attacks.

No one can accept such a siege. No one can tolerate such an action by which civilians take the brunt and become victims. We deeply regret the ongoing human tragedy in Gaza. There should at least be a basic consideration and obligation to protect civilians and respect the sanctity of life.

We reiterate our urgent appeal to stop the bloodshed and to halt all military activities. We invite the parties to implement the UN Security Council resolution 1860 without further delay, which calls for "immediate ceasefire" and a "full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza".

There is no time to lose. The longer the Israeli military operation continues, the more innocent lives will be in jeopardy.

The situation in Gaza has now become a humanitarian catastrophe. Unimpeded access for humanitarian assistance throughout Gaza, as well as the sustained and regular flow of goods to the people of Gaza, as stated in resolution 1860, is a must. The blockade on Gaza should be lifted in all its aspects.

Having said this, of course, Israel has a right to live in security. We by no means condone the continued rocket attacks launched against civilian targets in Israel.

However, we call on Israel to reconsider its policies which cannot deliver the sense of security it seeks. Excessive use of force, punitive measures which harm the well-being of the entire population are not the way towards permanent peace. It should not be forgotten that Palestinians which are being bombed and attacked today will be Israel's neighbors forever.

The tragedy in Gaza, if not stopped immediately, will increasingly continue to fuel the flames of hatred and enmity in the region. This is a very dangerous trend which has the potential of poisoning not only the present but also future generations.

Mr. President,

With these thoughts in mind, we continue our efforts and contacts, at all levels, towards helping to bring an end to this conflict. Our Prime Minister's Special Representative is now in the region, involved in an intense shuttle diplomacy.

We sincerely hope that all the endeavors exerted by different players would yield positive results promptly.

In the meantime, we also continue our massive humanitarian relief efforts for the people of Gaza and try to alleviate their suffering as much as we can.

We also underline the importance of the national reconciliation among Palestinians which, we believe, is crucial not only for the national unity and integrity of Palestine but also for the prospect of permanent peace and stability in the region.

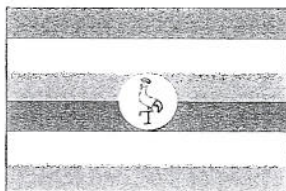
Mr. President,

UN Security Council Resolution 1860 provided an opportunity to end the hostilities in Gaza.

This opportunity must be seized.

The calm in the region must be restored so that we can once again start addressing the urgent need to have a viable and comprehensive peace on all tracks of the Middle East Peace Process.

Thank you.



UGANDA

Permanent Mission of Uganda
to the United Nations
New York

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STATEMENT BY

HE AMBASSADOR FRANCIS K. BUTAGIRA, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF UGANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON BEHALF OF THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC
CONFERENCE (OIC)
AT THE TENTH EMMEGENCY SPECIAL SESSION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON THE ILLEGAL ISRAELI ACTIONS IN OCCUPIED EAST
JERUSALEM AND THE REST OF THE OCCUPIED
PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

New York, 15 January 2009

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Mr President

I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Group in New York.

Mr President

The OIC welcomes and supports the convening of this 10th Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly on the "Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory" today to discuss Israel's aggression on Gaza.

An Emergency OIC Ministerial Executive Committee Meeting held in Jeddah on the 3rd of January 2009 called for the convening of a meeting of the General Assembly under "Uniting for Peace". This meeting today of the General Assembly therefore, is a clear reflection of the seriousness with which the international community takes the tragic situation in Gaza and the need to find an immediate and sustainable solution.

Mr President

The grave and worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza as a result of the Israeli actions is unacceptable. Civilians have borne the brunt of the attacks, causing hundreds of casualties, leaving thousands injured, and wreaking massive destruction on property and civic facilities.

The violence in Gaza, has claimed over 1,000 Palestinian lives and is now in its 20th day. Today, the UN compound in Gaza was shelled again. Yesterday we heard from the UN Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs that "United Nations schools sheltering displaced persons had been hit, humanitarian workers had been killed and ambulances hit, sick and wounded had been left trapped and unassisted, and up to 100,000 people had been displaced from their homes" He said "the civilian population of Gaza is terrified and its psychological impact felt particularly by children and their parents who feel helpless and unable to protect them."

We condemn Israel actions in Gaza, which are excessive. They must stop. The effect of the current hostilities is the further destabilization of the situation in the occupied territories and the wider Middle East. The violence is also a serious threat to the Middle East Peace process.

Israel must end its military operation immediately and open all the border crossings to ensure unfettered access of humanitarian supplies into Gaza. It is necessary to have immediate humanitarian access into Gaza to provide relief and evacuation of the wounded. But this access cannot be guaranteed as long as Israeli military operations are ongoing.

Mr President

Last week, the OIC welcomed the adoption of the resolution by the UN Security Council on the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip. Although the resolution came late, and it did not address some of the fundamental issues related to the Israeli – Palestinian Question, the resolution represented a step in the right direction.

There is need for immediate and full implementation of the resolution to ensure that all concerned parties abide by it and that Israel demonstrates commitment to stopping its aggression, withdrawing from the Gaza Strip, lifting the siege imposed on Gaza, opening the crossings, and allowing humanitarian assistance to cross into Gaza.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) has undertaken an emergency humanitarian assistance campaign launched by the OIC Secretary General with the objective of catering to the minimum basic humanitarian needs of the population in the Gaza Strip. On Wednesday, 14th January, 2009, a convoy of relief aid was delivered to the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip through the Rafah crossing. The OIC aid convoy included 300 tons of medicine, medical equipment, and food supplies.

We thank the United Nations, UN Member States, and civil society institutions that have provided the people of Gaza with support in these difficult times. We call on them all to give further support as the humanitarian needs in Gaza are acute.

We also pay tribute to all the humanitarian workers in Gaza who are continuing to carry out their work amid the terrible violence.

Finally, I wish to reiterate that the time has come for the violence to stop and an immediate resumption of the peace process to deal with the Question of Palestine in a comprehensive way in order to ensure a lasting and just peace in the Middle East, encompassing a two-state solution as called for in relevant Security Council resolutions.

I thank You

UNGA EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION ON GAZA – UK

STATEMENT

Word count: 565

Mr President, Excellencies,

I would like to begin by expressing the UK's support for the statement made by the Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic in the name of the European Union.

Mr President,

The UK welcomes the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1860 which the UK drafted and sponsored last week. We regret that its provisions have yet to be implemented by the parties. Resolution 1860 is very clear in its call for an "immediate durable and fully respected ceasefire". This requires an urgent need for a halt to Hamas rocket attacks and an end to Israeli military operations.

We welcome ongoing Egyptian efforts to deliver this ceasefire on the ground. This work is vital and we hope it succeeds. There is a real urgency with which this needs to move forward: every day that goes by without a ceasefire sees the death of more Palestinian civilians, including children, and the continued threat to Israeli civilians from rocket

fire. We cannot afford another week of this tragic conflict. We need a ceasefire immediately.

Making such a ceasefire durable will also be a challenge, but one to which the parties and the international communities need to rise. There needs to be practical action to improve security and halt the illegal traffic of arms and their components into Gaza. In parallel, we must reopen border crossings in Gaza, to allow the movement of people and goods.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza remains desperate. The UN continues to do an outstanding job there under very difficult circumstances. We applaud the courageous work of UNRWA staff, in particular given the impossible position they are put in by the military activity of Hamas and the damage done by Israeli shelling. We condemn the fact that UN Headquarters in Gaza was hit yesterday by Israeli shelling.

The UK has already made available an additional US\$10m to help address urgent humanitarian needs. We will continue to support the United Nations, and other international agencies, which have the infrastructure and expertise to lead the humanitarian response.

However, only a permanent ceasefire and the opening of border crossings can deliver sustained progress.

Mr President,

While we would not seek to limit freedom of debate within this Hall and are engaged in negotiations to try to deliver a GA resolution that will command widespread support across the membership, we nevertheless feel obliged to underline the limits which Article 12 of the United Nations Charter places on action that can be taken in the General Assembly on matters on which the Security Council is exercising its functions.

The Security Council's work on the situation in Gaza is clearly ongoing. The adoption of resolution 1860 a week ago has been followed by further discussion in the Council. We were briefed by the Secretary-General ahead of his current visit to the Region and were able to give him our views then. The Council met again yesterday to receive a further briefing on the situation following the attack on UN facilities, after which the Council President spoke to the press on the Council's behalf. The Security Council remains seized of the matter and ready to consider what further action is necessary in the light of the Secretary-General's

findings on his return. It cannot therefore be doubted that the exercise by the Council of its functions is ongoing,

Mr President,

Above all, we should take care that the General Assembly acts in support of the provisions of Security Council Resolution 1860, which provides the right framework for our collective action. I call on all parties to implement it urgently.



**PERMANENT MISSION OF BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF
VENEZUELA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**STATEMENT BY THE VICEMINISTER FOR NORTH AMERICA AND MULTILATERAL
AFFAIRS AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC
OF VENEZUELA, AMBASSADOR JORGE VALERO**

TENTH EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION

**Issue: Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem
and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

New York, 16 January 2009

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INTERVENTION BY THE VICEMINISTER FOR NORTH AMERICA AND
MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, AMBASSADOR JORGE VALERO, BEFORE
THE TENTH EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Issue: Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied Eastern Jerusalem
and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

New York, January 15 2009

I

We wish to make a very important announcement to this forum. In response to the Israeli government's political genocide of the Palestinian people. Faced with the crimes against humanity committed by its political and military elite in the Gaza Strip. Given Israel's repeated use of State terrorism and its government's unwillingness to respect Resolution 1860 of the Security Council, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in agreement with the principles of peace and solidarity that guide its foreign policy, has decided to break diplomatic relations with the Israeli State.

II

The human drama of the Gaza Strip is dantesque. Thousands of dead and wounded have been left by Israel's bloodthirsty occupation of the Gaza Strip. In this caravan of death it is women and children who are the most vulnerable.

The Occupying Forces, Israel, persistently violates article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, carrying out collective punishment on the Palestinian population of the Occupied Territory; making indiscriminate and excessive use of force against civilians; destroying electricity and water distribution networks; bombing public buildings and restricting the freedom to move around. These actions against the life, family, health, nutrition and psychological well-being of the Palestinian people constitute flagrant expressions of collective punishment. The Israeli aggression has provoked the largest forced displacement of Palestinians since 1967.

International organizations and doctors, who have worked in the Gaza Strip, have detected Uranium deposits in their victims and report that Israel is using white phosphorous bombs in densely populated areas in violation of international humanitarian legislation.

III

The actions of the Israel State seek to subjugate the Palestinian people by means of its extermination. This is genocide. Crimes against humanity have been committed which cannot go unpunished: at this historical moment the International Law Court or Special Tribunal must take action.

After a worrying period of paralysis, the Security Council approved Resolution 1860 on January 8 2009 in which an immediate, lasting and fully respected ceasefire was requested which would lead to the total withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and demands that the unhindered distribution of humanitarian aid be guaranteed.

Nevertheless, the Israeli political and military elite continues its genocide in Gaza and

declares unblinkingly that it will not act in accordance with Resolution 1860 of the Security Council.

The Israeli Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, has declared that he rejects the Resolution because he finds it "impracticable". He alleges that "the operations will continue" and that Israel "never accepted that an external influence take decisions over its right to defend its citizens."

And the Deputy Prime Minister cynically expresses that: "It does not matter in the least if the resolution does not get beyond a draft it's our interests that are important."

IV

The Israeli government alleges that it is exercising its legitimate right to defend itself when before the world it is carrying out indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks against the Palestinian people. The Israeli government's arguments are untenable.

The International Court of Justice, in a 2004 report rejected - with regards the construction of the Israeli wall in Palestine - the argument of legitimate defense invoked by Israel. And the fact is that it is not possible to talk about legitimate defense when the violence is carried out by Israel against a people and a territory who are subjected to occupation.

V

Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people did not begin on December 27 of 2008 because Israel has never stopped being an Occupying Force. We are not in the presence of isolated nor casual acts. It is rather a matter of a plan designed from the time the Israeli State came into being - a plan to expel and exterminate the Palestinian citizens from their land with the support of imperial powers.

The Israeli Government's punitive measures are part of a deliberate strategy to render inviable the Palestinian people's ability to effectively determine itself in a free manner. In this context, it foments military actions, designed to carry out an ethnic cleansing of the Arab people.

The Israeli warmongers decide not to recognize the legitimate right for a Palestinian State to exist, as is stipulated by the United Nations Resolution 181 which split historical Palestine into a Jewish State and Palestinian State 60 years ago. What they seek, in any case, is to decimate the population so that it accepts any decision which is the product of terror and the military, technological and numerical force and the strength in numbers of Israel.

The permanent military siege imposed on the Palestinian people via air, sea and land, including the closure of the six land border crossings that connect Gaza to Egypt, the West Bank and Israel are reminiscent of the disgraceful practice of apartheid.

The preferred objectives of the genocide of the political and military elite of Israel in the Gaza Strip are civilian ones: mosques and universities, schools and homes, hospitals and medicine warehouses, factories and media. It obstructs the entry of humanitarian aid. It even bombs schools and United Nations convoys of humanitarian aid. The United Nations Headquarters in Gaza was bombed causing numerous fatalities. It is time to reiterate that

universally recognized human rights exist and must continue to be in effect, even in cases of armed conflict.

VI

Faced with this criminal policy. Faced with the violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. Faced with the contempt of hundreds of the General Assembly and Security Council's Resolutions regarding Palestine, and particularly Resolution 1860, What will this Extraordinary Emergency General Assembly do? How can the United Nations be party to the massacre of the Palestinian people and not take decisions to stop it? How much more suffering will be needed to make world leaders sensitive to what is happening?

This General Assembly is an historic opportunity to adopt a resolution that interprets the peaceful sentiment which humanity is filled with. It is necessary to make declarations about Israel's disregard for Resolution 1860 of the Security Council.

Venezuela welcomes the celebration of this Extraordinary General Assembly as a genuine expression of the 192 countries that make up the United Nations and considers fortunate the request to the President of the General Assembly, Father Miguel D'Escoto to celebrate such a significant event formulated by the Movement for Non-Aligned Countries (NAM). As you know, Venezuela, Malaysia and Indonesia had requested that the President of the General Assembly convene a Special Session of the General Assembly. This meeting is a golden opportunity for this forum to express the expectations and hopes of the peoples of the world.

In 2004, the International Court of Justice laid out that if indeed the Security Council has the primary responsibility to safeguard peace, they do not carry it out alone and it is a responsibility shared by the General Assembly.

VII

Our delegation has supported the proposal made by the President of the General Assembly to this group - a resolution project which is being debated today. We wish to acknowledge the President's bravery in convening this General Assembly, bearing in mind the desperate attempts made by some countries, such as Israel, to sabotage it.

Additionally, we wish to acknowledge the importance of the Resolution Project entitled "Supporting the immediate cease fire based on Resolution 1860 (2009) of the Security Council" which the President has presented to us. This project forms the foundations for an agreement. We value Padre Miguel D'Escoto's efforts in seeking a solid consensus.

In the meantime we wish to present some additions to the abovementioned resolution project with the aim of enriching and strengthening it. We thus consider it is necessary to include the following elements:

Demand that the Israeli State, the Occupying Power, immediately and unconditionally adhere to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1860

Demand the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli military forces from the Gaza Strip.

Call on all United Nations Member States and the international community to take part in

the rebuilding of Gaza.

Demand that Israel, the occupying power, lift the economic and military blockade on the Occupied Territory of Gaza and immediately reopen the border crossings with the Gaza Strip so as to allow access to humanitarian aid and enable people to move about freely. Urges the UNICEF and all related institutions to implement an aid program for Palestinian children and teenagers affected by the trauma of war.

Supports the United Nations Human Rights Council Resolution of January 9 2009 regarding "The serious human rights violations following the occupation of Palestine, including the recent occupation of the Gaza region."

Fundamental elements for the Resolution of this Extraordinary General Assembly can be found in the Declaration of Non-Aligned Countries released last January 13 of 2009.

VIII

Faced with the failures of the Security Council it is necessary to foment a true reform of the United Nations with the aim that the General Assembly, as the expression of the plural interests of the international community, has the power to orient, with restraint and balance, world matters regarding peace and international security.

In the context of the reform process of the United Nations, it is necessary that the General Assembly, as a universal instance that represents the international community, has greater decision making power in international matters. We must demand that Israel, the Occupying Power, make good its obligations with regards international law, in particular international humanitarian rights and the international law regarding human rights.

IX

The political and military elite of Israel repeatedly violates the United Nations Resolutions. It places itself on the margin of international law. It uses State terrorism. It systematically resorts to war as a policy of expansion and a tool to persecute the Palestinian people. As such, the Bolivarian Government will insist before the international community that these crimes against humanity committed by Israel be denounced before the International Law Court or a Special Tribunal.

X

The solidarity of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and its President, Hugo Chávez Frías, with the Palestinian people goes beyond political discourses. In this sense, we have sent humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people. The Egyptian government has offered its help to make this aid arrive to those who need it.

The first batch of humanitarian aid has already arrived in Egypt and includes 12.5 tons of medical supplies to help the injured Palestinian civilians. The second batch of humanitarian aid will be sent in the next few days and will include 80 tons of tinned food. Also, there are plans to send medical personnel and civil servants who are highly specialized rescue and aid operations.

XI

We have before us the moral responsibility to give the world a lesson in humanity and to recover the traces of hope that a more just and dignified world is possible.

Insane violence can lead to the dehumanization of societies and turn them into animals. That is happening today.

Only the peoples' clamors can break the vicious cycle of war. Only the peoples' condemnation of intolerance and irrationality can stop this thirst for crazed violence.

The National Assembly must have its say.

**BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA
MINISTRY OF POPULAR POWER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

COMMUNIQUE

**VENEZUELA BREAKS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH
ISRAEL FACED WITH THE SEVERITY OF THE ATROCITIES
COMMITTED AGAINST THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA ANNOUNCES BEFORE PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD ITS OUTRAGE CONCERNING THE ISRAELI STATE'S REPEATED CONTEMPT AND IGNORANCE OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL'S RESOLUTIONS, THE MOST RECENT OF WHICH WAS APPROVED ON JANUARY 8 2009.

ISRAEL HAS SYSTEMATICALLY IGNORED THE UNITED NATIONS' APPEALS, THUS REPEATEDLY AND SHAMELESSLY VIOLATING THE RESOLUTIONS APPROVED BY THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF ITS MEMBERS AND THUS PLACING ITSELF AT THE MARGIN OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

AT THIS MOMENT, THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT'S VIOLE BEHAVIOR NOW READS AS 19 DAYS OF CONTINUOUS BOMBING, THE MURDER OF MORE THAN 1000 PEOPLE, AND THE DESTRUCTION OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE POPULATION OF GAZA; A HUMAN CATASTROPHE IS BEING UNLEASHED BEFORE THE EYES OF THE ENTIRE WORLD.

THIS REPUGNANT CRUELTY AGAINST THE CIVILIAN POPULATION IS NOTHING BUT A TRUE EXAMPLE OF THE ISRAEL'S REPEATED USE OF STATE TERRORISM, WHICH IS CLAIMING THE LIVES OF THE WEAKEST AND MOST

INNOCENT PEOPLE: CHILDREN, WOMEN AND THE ELDERLY.

THE SEVERITY OF VIOLATIONS OF THE PRINCIPLE OF PEOPLES' PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND THE SYSTEMATIC USE OF WAR AS A POLICY OF EXPANSION AND A TOOL TO PERSECUTE THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE REMOVE ANY POSSIBLE JUSTIFICATION FOR THESE ATROCIOUS ACTS AND DEMONSTRATE THE COLD CALCULATION OF THE ISRAELI STATE.

FOR ALL THE ABOVE REASONS, THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS VISION OF THE WORLD REGARDING PEACE, SOLIDARITY AND RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW, HAS DECIDED TO BREAK DEFINITELY ITS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE ISRAELI STATE.

FURTHERMORE, FACED WITH THE INHUMANE PERSECUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE CONDUCTED BY THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA WILL INSIST BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THAT THE CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY COMMITTED BY ISRAEL'S LEADERS BE DENOUNCED BEFORE THE COURT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND WILL NOT REST UNTIL IT SEES THEM RECEIVE SEVERE PUNISHMENT.

CARACAS, JANUARY 15 2008



Revised

SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

Check against delivery!

Statement

by H.E. Ambassador Le Luong Minh, Permanent Representative of Viet Nam on Agenda Item "Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory" at the Resumed Tenth Emergency Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York, 15 January 2009

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Delegation of Viet Nam, I would like to thank you for convening this emergency meeting of the General Assembly. I would also like to thank distinguished Ambassador Abelardo Moreno of Cuba for presenting the common position of the Non-Aligned Movement that Viet Nam totally shares and supports.

Mr. President,

The escalation of violence and the losses and sufferings of the Palestinian people in Gaza as a result of the Israeli bombings and military operations has been a cause of the international community's deep concern. We are gravely preoccupied by the loss of so many innocent lives, many of defenseless women, children and humanitarian personnel, and the massive destruction of their homes, properties, Gaza's infrastructure and UN facilities, including schools and hospitals.

In the face of the gravity of the current crisis, my Delegation emphasizes the urgent need to cease all military activities and violence and to provide immediate protection for the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza in accordance with international humanitarian laws. We urge all parties concerned to respond to the repeated appeals of the international community and implement without delay Security Council resolution 1860 adopted a week ago which provides for an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire, the unimpeded provision and distribution throughout Gaza of humanitarian assistance and the sustained reopening of the border crossings into Gaza on the basis of the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access. We urge Israel to stop all military operations, immediately withdraw forces from Gaza, and remove the imposition of blockage and restrictions against the Palestinian population, thus creating fundamental premises for stopping the cycle of violence and resolving the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Viet Nam supports adoption by the General Assembly of a resolution to these effects.

Mr. President,

The United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), other humanitarian organizations and the international community play a crucial and indispensable role in extending emergency assistance to the Palestinian people in Gaza. We urge the parties concerned to facilitate the safe and unhindered operations of humanitarian personnel on the ground and take measures to assure their safety.

In solidarity with the suffering people of Palestine in Gaza, the Government of Viet Nam has decided to provide emergency assistance to be transmitted to UNRWA for onward distribution.

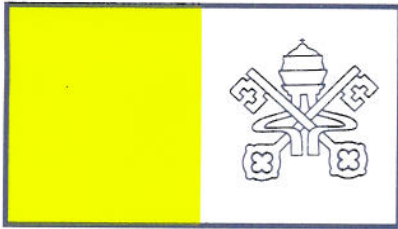
Mr. President,

Violence and counter-violence will neither advance the mutual peace and security of Palestinians and Israelis nor help them achieve the internationally-recognized and aspired goal of a two-State solution. At this critical juncture, we call upon all parties concerned to exercise utmost restraint, renounce all actions that may cause further bloodshed and immediately return to peaceful negotiations to resolve remaining disputes. Viet Nam stands ready to support and contribute to the intensified and coordinated efforts of the United Nations, regional countries and the international community at large in finding a durable solution which may help end the continuing loss of innocent lives, prevent the present situation from recurrence or further escalation, and bring the peace process back on track.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I wish to reaffirm Viet Nam's steadfast support for the peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and for the right of the Palestinian people to exercise self-determination and sovereignty in their independent State of Palestine, living side by side in peace with Israel within secure and recognized borders, based on the Road Map, the Arab Peace Initiative, the Annapolis Joint Understanding, and relevant United Nations resolutions, including relevant Security Council resolutions.

I thank you, Mr. President!



HOLY SEE

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**Statement by H.E. Archbishop Celestino Migliore
Apostolic Nuncio
Permanent Observer of the Holy See**

Tenth emergency special session of the UN General Assembly

**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem
and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory:
draft resolution (A/ES-10/L.21)**

New York, 16 January 2009

Mr. President,

At the very outset of this tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly on the dramatic situation in Gaza and some Israeli cities, my Delegation would like to express its solidarity with the civilians in those regions who bear the brunt of a cruel conflict.

My delegation takes this opportunity to wish the Secretary-General well in his mission to step up the pace of the joint diplomatic efforts and ensure that urgent humanitarian assistance reaches those in need.

The Holy See asks that Security Council resolution 1860, of January 8, which calls for an immediate and enduring ceasefire as well as for an unimpeded humanitarian assistance, be implemented fully. In the past few days we have witnessed a practical failure from all sides to respect the distinction of civilians from military targets. Within the context of this resolution, we call on all parties to fully abide by the requirements of international humanitarian law, in order to ensure the protection of the civilians.

The troubled history of some sixty years of coexistence of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples has witnessed a long succession of conflict, but also of dialogue, including the Madrid meetings, the Oslo Accords, the Wye Memorandum, the peace process of the Quartet, the road map and the Annapolis Conference with their two state solution. Unfortunately, however, the many efforts to establish peace between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples have so far failed.

My Delegation observes that so many failed efforts are due to insufficiently courageous and coherent political will for establishing peace, from every side, and ultimately an unwillingness to come together and forge a just and lasting peace.

The United Nations has the weighty task to get the parties to respect the ceasefire, pave the way to negotiations and agreements between them and ensure humanitarian assistance. In particular, this General Assembly can assist the parties in the conflict to discover new patterns for establishing peace, patterns based on mutual acceptance and cooperation amid diversity.

Thank you, Mr. President.