



## Action Alert for Gaza (2)

### THE CHILDREN OF GAZA ARE CALLING ON YOU TO SAVE THEM FROM THE SAVAGE ISRAELI ARTILLERY

#### ENOUGH IS ENOUGH..... THE CHILDREN IN GAZA ARE ENTITLED TO SAFETY

Since twelve days, the Israelis have been launching the bloodiest war ever on Gaza, killing women and children mercilessly, using overwhelming firepower from tanks, artillery and aircraft. Until Tuesday, the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 660 civilians have been killed, amongst them are 215 children and 90 women. Amongst the 3,000 injured, 20% are in critical situation. and over 30% are children and women,. In the last four days, the continuous shooting of rockets, bombs, and shelling has increased the number of deaths amongst women and children drastically.

The Israeli tanks, planes and war ships continue to bomb civilian targets, homes, clinics, hospitals, schools, shelters, mosques, universities. Nothing stands safe in the face of Israeli bombing. The UNRWA school of Fakhoura has been shelled yesterday, killing over 40 civilians, including women, children and elderly, who had been evicted by the Israeli forces from their homes and offered refuge by UNRWA in the school. Israel continues to close all borders and allows only a trickle of humanitarian aid and medical supplies. If the shelling and siege do not stop immediately, Gaza will turn into a non-recoverable humanitarian disaster.

Again and again, the United Nations, falls hostage to the United States veto, and shamefully justifies the killing of children and women as the right of Israel for self-defense and security. ***How the killing of these women and children will bring about Israeli security, is yet to be answered. How Many more Palestinians will Israel need to kill in order to achieve its security continues to be the main question for the Israeli leaders today.***

Again and again the United Nations fails to rise up to its responsibility to put an immediate end to the killing of children and women. An aggression which continues to be justified by Israel under the pretext of security and self defense. The siege of Gaza which has been going on for the last 18 months is in itself an act of war. And the Qassam rockets came as a desperate response to that brutal siege. However Hamas has said it loud and clear that it will stop the rockets once the siege is lifted

If the world is genuine in its efforts to end terrorism, then state terrorism of the Israeli Occupation has to be made accountable, and has to end. The killing of civilians is utmost terror, and has to be recognized as such. As civil society



massively condemns the war on Gaza and the vicious killing of the innocent children, women and men, the majority of governments around the world continue to stand either silent, or refuse to admit that it is the failure of their commitments and genuine efforts to a just Peace in the Middle East that has led to this war. Israel on its part fails to understand that it is peace with justice alone that brings security and not war.

The Israeli war on Lebanon in 2006 did not bring about peace, and the continued occupation of West Bank and Gaza, and continued violation of basic rights will not bring about peace. The United States unfortunately fails to understand that its continued bias and blinded support to Israel will not bring peace. It is only with justice, that peace and security will prevail.

***It is therefore imperative that the international community continue to pressure their governments in breaking their silence and intervening immediately to stop these bloody massacres before it is too late to stop an explosion in the whole Middle East region and beyond.***

We continue to urge the United Nations to uphold the principles upon which it was founded and to respect the resolutions which are stacked unimplemented in its annals, foremost amongst which is the implementation of the inalienable rights of the Palestinians and an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab land.

The YWCA of Palestine continues to mourn the death of all these innocent civilians and prays that their souls may rest in peace. The YWCA of Palestine calls on

- 1- All YWCA's and supporting organizations around the World to organize a candle vigil prayer on Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> of January, in respect of the souls of all the innocent killed in this massacre
- 2- All YWCA's, Humanitarian and Human Rights Agencies, as well as International NGOs and international community to continue to protest, and call on their respective governments to pressure the Israeli Government to immediately stop the war on Gaza and continued slaughters and massacres of innocent civilians
- 3- Neighboring countries to open the borders to allow entry of humanitarian aid and medical supplies
- 4- YWCA's around the World and the international community to call on the UN Security Council to convene an emergency session and adopt concrete measures, including the imposition of sanctions, in order to ensure Israel's fulfillment of its obligations under international humanitarian law.
- 5- The United Nations to offer immediate protection for the civilians, especially women and children who continue to be killed on daily basis
- 6- All concerned to bring the Israeli political leaders to the International Criminal Court (ICC) for executing these war crimes against defenseless civilians, and ensure respect to all human rights and humanitarian laws

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**National Council Office of the YWCA of Palestine**