



المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

Palestinian Human Rights Organization - PHRO

Member of International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

Member of Euro Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)



Beirut, January 8th, 2008

The Palestinian Human Rights Organization (PHRO) renews its condemnation to the **Israeli Aggression on Gaza** and urges the **Security Council**, not only to adopt a Presidential Statement, and to send International Forces to impose security and protect the civilians. The PHRO further re-appeal the **High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions** to fulfill their obligations, and calls upon the **Human Rights Council** to support the demand of the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and recommend the General Assembly to convene in order to take a group of decisions and actions without being endangered by the power of the veto. Moreover, the PHRO calls upon the **European Union** to adopt positions and speeches that goes in line with the relevant principles of human rights and the standards that they have stipulated in their charter(s) and convention(s) and to reconsider the decision that had been taken by the Council of the European Union on the relations' upgrade with Israel

The military killing machine of the Israeli army, continue for the thirteenth consecutive day, targeting civilians in the Gaza Strip, committing against them war crimes and crimes against humanity, on time of the decelerate in the work of the International Committees, Institutions and Councils in taking the necessary actions in cases of **Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression**.

We are now witnessing fierce violations of the International Humanitarian Law (IHL)!

The occupation forces are persisting in targeting civilians¹, and the International Committees, Institutions and Councils are graving in decelerating, forgetting that the time being wasted to take serious and binding decisions is being effectively used to slaughter many lives of civilians, especially innocent children, and the best evidence on that is, the occupation forces atheist aggression, on January 6, 2009, that **targeted three UNRWA schools in which civilians were sheltering due to searching for security, where 42 casualties proceeded including 10 children!!!**

The aggravated lose pace approached by the International Committees, Institutions and Councils, in particular the Security Council, **make us put it within the frame of encouraging Israel to move forward in its barbarous actions**, which are contrary to all the international conventions that provides respect for human rights, and in particular the provisions of the International Humanitarian Law; Furthermore, the speeches of the European Officials who are roaming in the region, **fall within the same encouragement context**, since their voices were raised to bear Hamas Movement with all the responsibility for what is going on in Gaza – despite that Hamas

¹ The total number of victims is 700, most of them are civilians, including 219 children, 89 women and 7 medical personnel, this is in addition to the very high number of wounded or injured who reached 3100 and whom are mostly civilians



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bear part of it² – **condoning at the same time the greatest responsibility of Israel, for the hostility taking place, since:**

1. It is a State of Occupation, and therefore the chief responsible, according to Chapter III on the Occupied Territories in the Fourth Geneva Convention, on the protection of all the civilians, and not only its citizens
2. It is an Occupation Authority, where it has been imposing a continuous systematic and dreary siege on Gaza Strip, which could be, at least, described as collective punishment, according to the provisions of article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention

The PHRO regrets the outcome of the situation and its absurd, and renew its condemnation for the criminal acts committed by the State of the Israeli Occupation against our Palestinian civilian people, and:

- Urges the **Security Council** not only to agree upon a Presidential Statement on Gaza, but to rush towards taking a binding decision, that would stop the on going blood shed in Gaza since 27 December 2008, and impose: a) strict procedures that protect the civilians, *and hereby sending International Peace Forces became a necessity*, and b) sanctions on Israel for desecrating its obligations to the International Humanitarian Law.
- Renews its appeal to the **The High Contracting parties to the Geneva Conventions** to fulfill their legal obligations in accordance with articles 1 and 146 of the Fourth Geneva Convention which affirm on the prosecution of those responsible for grave breaches of the Convention
- Calls upon the Human Rights Council, and during its special session on Gaza, that is supposed to take place on Friday, January 9th, 2009, to support the demand of the **President of the General Assembly of the United Nations, H. E. Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann**, and recommend the General Assembly to convene under its **Resolution no. 377 of November 1950 and titled "Uniting for Peace"** in order to take group of actions and measures against the Israeli Government and the perpetrators of the violations of the IHL **without being endangered by the power of the veto**.
- Re-call upon the **European Union and its member States** to make effective use of the European Union Guidelines on promoting compliance with international humanitarian law (2005/C 327/04) and to ensure that Israel complies with international humanitarian law under paragraph 16 (b), (c) and (d) of these guidelines, including the adoption of immediate restrictive measures and sanctions, as well as cessation of all upgrade dialogue with Israel through reconsidering the EU Council Resolution which was released on early December 2008 concerning **"The Upgrade of Relations with Israel"** without any consideration to its history of breaches to human and humanitarian rights, which in fact is contrary to the principle of respect for those rights set forth in paragraph 2 of the

² Hamas Movement bears part of the responsibility since it has breached the rules of the International Humanitarian Law through targeting civilians, as well as endangering the lives of civilians during the use of the legitimate right to resistance and self-defense



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EU-Israel Association Agreement. Furthermore, we urge the **European Union** to adopt **positions and speeches that goes in line with the relevant principles of human rights and the standards that they have stipulated in their charter(s) and convention(s).**

Last but not least, the PHRO calls upon the International Parties who are working to bring these conflicts to an end, to give up the **Policy of Hypocrisy**, which could stimulate the dispute because it lacks the standards of fairness and justice. Hereby, we remind these parties that, the disregard and the contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and now we are witnessing this once again; We further call them to bear in mind that what have been stated in the preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: **"it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law"**.

The PHRO, and from its deep faith in the International System of Human Rights, calls upon the United Nations Member States, as well as the Quartet, which includes along with the United States, the European Union, the Russian Federation, as well as the United Nations, **to have a fair position**, and implement the provisions of the International Bill of Human Rights, **particularly in terms of equality and non-discrimination.**

We fear the risk of the unjust silence of your Councils and Institutions, which could jeopardize the entire system to the loss of trust and credibility, and we urge you to speedily rectify the matter and put forward the benefit of the right to life and security of person, on the other regional and international interests and considerations.

The PHRO is an independent non-governmental organization "NGO" established in 1997, recognized in Lebanon under registration no. 36/AD and a member of the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) and the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN). PHRO works for promoting, protecting and defending the Human Rights of the Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon.

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