

1st January 2009



Ambassador Sallai Meridor
Embassy of Israel
3514 International Dr. N.W.
Washington DC 20008

Dear Sir,

I am outraged by the violence your armed forces have inflicted on the Palestinian population in Gaza. **The “response” to rockets being fired across the border is utterly out of proportion to the damage the rockets have caused** and indeed has resulted in even more being fired into Israel. Last time I saw figures, four Israelis had died but you have killed nearly four HUNDRED Palestinians.

Although Israel has removed troops and so-called settlers from Gaza, it has controlled the borders and by severely limiting the movement of people and goods, you have created intolerable conditions for the population. For instance, I see in a recent UN report¹ that restricted fuel supplies mean that there is insufficient power to run water pumps so that *“Half of Gaza City's population is receiving water only once a week for a few hours”*. Of course they are going to take up arms against their oppressor. The current military action will create even greater hatred of your country and further motivate the citizens of Gaza to figure out new ways to strike you.

Instead of ever greater repression, it is time to act with generosity recognizing that many, if not most, of the people living in Gaza are there because they were displaced by the creation of Israel in 1948. Jews have been successful at recovering art works stolen by the Nazis and bank accounts stolen by the Swiss—it is natural that the Palestinians want their houses and land back. However, if they cannot return to what is now Israel, you need to help them establish a new life in their new home by building rather than bombing infrastructure and providing compensation rather than destroying what little they have. The policies Israel has followed for 60 years give the Palestinians no alternative but to keep fighting.

Peter 

Alexandria, VA 22304

¹ Gaza humanitarian situation report: The impact of the blockade on the Gaza Strip, a human dignity crisis
<http://domino.un.org/unispal.nsf/47d4e277b48d9d3685256ddc00612265/3e3505fd18cfb035852575220052c893!OpenDocument>