

Stop the bombs! End the Occupation!



The situation in Gaza is desperate. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the Occupied Territories has recently referred to certain acts by Israel against the Gaza population as a crime against humanity¹. We are horrified by the daily murder of innocent civilians in the Gaza strip as a result of the massive escalation in military action. This is illegal, uncivilized and unacceptable behaviour by a United Nations Member State.

The continued bombardment and occupation by Israeli forces is keeping food from the 750,000 refugees depending on the UNRWA (United Nations Reliefs and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees). The blockade must stop, and the borders must be opened immediately to prevent the starvation and deaths of countless refugees. We deplore the negative role of the United States and European Union in this and recognize that a change in Policy is critical in order to open Gaza and end the siege. Food and medicine should not be used as weapons against a civilian population in need, and doing so is counter to international law.

WILPF supports the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur of the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories. In his report of 25 August 2008, he recommends, among other things, that “the United Nations should explore its own responsibility with respect to the wellbeing of the Palestinians living under unlawful condition of occupation particularly bearing on abuses of border control, freedom and independence of journalists, and the general crisis in health care, especially in Gaza”.

It is high time for all involved to take the steps that will break the vicious circle of violent actions and reactions we witness constantly and bring the occupation, the basic cause of the violence, to an end.

Ending the catastrophic situation of the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip that has been brought about by Israel's actions and the gross violations of human rights of the Palestinian people must be a priority for the entire international community.

¹ <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/48e5e2be2.html>



The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom calls for:

- **Full Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied since 4 June 1967** including withdrawal from the Golan Heights and the Lebanese territories in the south of Lebanon, in implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, reaffirmed by the Madrid Conference of 1991, and all other relevant UN resolutions;
- **Israel's acceptance of an independent sovereign State of Palestine** with East Jerusalem as its capital;
- **Lifting of the siege on the Gaza Strip** and open passage to enable all Palestinian citizens to move in and out, and between Gaza and the West Bank to enable access to commerce, work, medical treatment, and education;
- **Freedom of movement for the Palestinian people**, by removing all the checkpoints and closures within the West Bank, and Jerusalem respecting the geographical and political integrity of Palestine;
- **Removal of the Wall erected illegally on Palestinian land** and all such further construction, which the ICJ Advisory Opinion states Israel is obliged to do and should make reparation for all damage caused by it;
- **Discontinuation of the supply of weaponry to any state in the region**, instead, human and economic resources should be used for construction of a just and viable peace and through the reconstruction of war-devastated areas;
- **Full participation of women in conflict prevention, resolution, negotiation and democracy building** and a gender perspective in protection, repatriation and post-conflict reconstruction.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is the oldest women's peace organization in the world, established in 1915 to oppose the war raging in Europe. It has been working ever since to study, make known, and abolish the causes of war, and to support human rights and general and complete disarmament.

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