



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR
TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

Registration No. 2795/2012

OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

**ICSFT DENOUNCES THE CONTINUOUS ATTACK ON
PALESTINIANS BY THE OCCUPYING ISRAELI FORCES**



Gaza covered with smoke during Israeli air attack

Following Egyptian-brokered ceasefire in the besieged Gaza strip, today Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman announced he is resigning from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government in protest against a Gaza truce. Gaza is a home for more than two million people and has been under a devastating Israeli-imposed blockade for the past 11 years, which has severely restricted the movement of Palestinians causing its economy to a state of collapse.

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Since Monday dozens of Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces. The latest brutal and illegal wave of aggression started when Israel launched a raid in Gaza that killed seven other Palestinians on Sunday. More than 200 Palestinians have been killed and thousands more wounded by Israeli troops deployed along the other side of the fence since the Great March of Return demonstrations began on March 30.

Lieberman addressing the press today said "he deemed Tuesday's Egyptian-mediated ceasefire in Gaza "a capitulation to terror".

The exacerbation of tensions in Gaza was the result of 70 years of conflict and 50 years of occupation. The developments in Gaza today are again a painful reminder of the consequences of a missing peace between Israel and Palestine and the need to step up our efforts in support of a peaceful political resolution of the conflict. Palestinians could not be the exception to the international commitment to protect civilians from atrocities.

The United Nations has approved a resolution decrying the use of live ammunition against civilian protesters, including children, as well as medical personnel and journalists and underscoring its grave concern at the loss of innocent lives.

Therefore it is time that the UN swiftly upholds its Charter duties and the integrity and authority of its resolutions in light of the violations and provocations against the rights and legitimate national aspirations of the Palestinian people.

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ICSFT sends its condolences to the families of the victims who were killed in the latest Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip.

Israel must uphold its responsibilities under international human rights and humanitarian law. As such we urge Israeli security forces to exercise maximum restraint to avoid casualties.

Most importantly ICSFT urges the international community to take concrete measures to reverse the current course of aggression by Israel and advance the goal of a just and sustainable peace based on the two-State solution.

The international community must protect the people of Gaza who are under constant attack by the occupying power, Israel. We need to promptly act to stop the Israeli raids and the 'brutal' shelling of residential areas in the Gaza Strip.

ICSFT stands with the Great Return March and Palestinians, and will continue to until Palestine is returned to its rightful occupants.