

## THE CAMBRIDGE RESOLUTION ON GAZA

- WHEREAS: We, delegates assembled in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire for the Executive Board Meeting of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities, so designated by the General Assembly of the United Nations, have been convened between 1 and 5 April 2009, condemn the violation of human rights and the oppression caused by the invasion of the Gaza Strip by Israel that began on 27 December 2008, which killed more than 1,300 Palestinians and which killed 14 Israelis during the three-week conflict; and
- WHEREAS: The International Association of Peace Messenger Cities supports the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, principles of international law and of peaceful alternatives to war, and opposes invasion and war as methods to resolving conflict by any member nation of the UN, because such methods pose a direct threat to world peace; and
- WHEREAS: The Association of Peace Messenger Cities recognizes the need to promote world peace throughout cities such as those present at this Executive Board meeting and we believe that in the interests of world peace that there must be solidarity and co-operation to assist in the re-construction of Gaza and to prevent further suffering by the elderly, the sick, and the children – all of whom must be considered as innocent victims of the conflagration; and
- WHEREAS: We, as Peace Messenger Cities, confirm the support needed to help the people of Gaza the need for shelter, the need for primary health care to be available to the people, and the supplies needed to rebuild the infrastructure of the local and national economies; and
- WHEREAS: According to UNICEF, “The recent and extreme levels of conflict in Gaza have affected the lives of some 800,000 children and young people. Many have lost their schools, health facilities, play areas and even neighborhoods, which have been destroyed in the violence. Women and children are the worst affected. Among them are a special group with one foot still in childhood and another in adulthood: the adolescents”; and
- WHEREAS: Also according to UNICEF, as of 13 January 2009 “a reported 311 children and 76 women have been killed throughout this military operation, and more than 1,459 children and 625 women injured ...More than half (56%) of Gaza’s 1.4 million residents are children, and past days have unfortunately highlighted that there are currently no safe spaces in Gaza for them. 840,000 children are under extreme stress and trauma-inducing conditions; shortage of drinking water and sewage overflows in residential areas are becoming an imminent public health danger; and over 35,000 people are seeking refuge in emergency public shelters”; and
- WHEREAS: During the hostilities, the UN pulled out their Humanitarian Aid staff citing Israel for its refusal to guarantee the safety of their workers from Israeli fire; and
- WHEREAS: Since 2004, rockets fired from Gaza into Israel have caused the deaths of 20 civilians; and

- WHEREAS: The International Red Cross in a rare condemnation criticized Israel from blocking aid workers to reaching Gaza residents who had been bombed; and
- WHEREAS: The Israeli military responses caused the deaths of thousands of Palestinian civilians, and even more Palestinian loss of life has occurred in the last 20 months due to the severe economic blockade imposed on Gaza by Israel; and
- WHEREAS: The Supreme Court of Israel has ruled that Israel must immediately allow foreign journalists access to Gaza, because, in the words of the New York Times, "As in every war zone, reporting by journalists -- and human rights monitors as well -- can discourage abuse and is essential to full public understanding of the conflict"; and
- WHEREAS: We understand the plight of the people of Gaza, who have been devastated by the Israeli actions against them, and we appeal for support from cities and nations across the globe, who must assist in the reconstruction needed; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities requests that the embargoes against any country are cancelled forthwith, and that all nations have the right to protect their peoples from the humanitarian disaster brought about by the catastrophic use of sanctions; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities go on record recognizing the grievous impact of the loss of lives in the conflict on families and communities, mourning those lives on both sides of the conflict, condemning the attacks and invasion of Gaza by the Israeli military and the rocket attacks upon the people of Israel, and call for an end to all attacks on civilians on both sides; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities urges: access to Gaza for journalists; access to humanitarian aid; a cease-fire on both sides maintained with international monitoring; a long-term truce and an end to the economic blockade of the Gaza Strip and an increased flow of goods and people between Israel and Gaza; and a long-term negotiated peace, a two-state solution that acknowledges the right of Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace and freedom; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the Executive Board of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities urges for its member cities to discuss and develop practical ways in which they can support and assist the citizens of Gaza in the much needed rebuilding of their city and community.