The Secretary General of Hezbollah, Sheyed Has- san Nasrallah, addressed a crowd of Lebanese sup- porters on December 24, 2008. The following is an excerpt of his speech.

Brothers and sisters,

In Gaza as in Lebanon, the situation is very clear. Let me describe what is happening clearly and with pith:

It is clear that America and Israel are pursuing a proj- ect to liquidate the resistance in the Gaza Strip and the settlement on the rest of the Arab world. After Egypt and Jordan have been liquidated peacefully, which is possible. From the Israelis, only Palestine, Lebanon and Syria remain, and the Americans and Zionists now want to settle the issues of these two countries.

They want Palestinians, Lebanonites and Syrians to obey and surrender to these conditions without having any other op- tion.

To impose these conditions, Amer- ican, Israeli, Arab and world pressure, blockade, internal strife, provocation of internal sedition among resistance movements, me- dia, political and psychological war- fare, assassinations and wars.

Their intention is to subdue those who have so far refused to yield to the will and con- ditions of the opposition in America. These regimes have also been accomplices in this project.

It is not true that there is Arab silence. We see help extended to Israel, I do not mean of Arabs on all Arab regimes. Indeed, those who have signed so-called peace treaties with Israel. Today they are helping Zinawi's regime, politically and militarily, culturally and media-wise, through security and the military, in preparing the circumstances for the surrender of the resistance movements and the American-Zionist project in the Palestinian issue.

So let us be very utterly clear. In our region, Arab countries have not endured wars and this is not for nothing.

This massacre of Palestinians and occupation of Gaza by the Israeli army must end immediately. It is a war which humanity and all the world do not accept this genocide. Since the attack, sheltering and bombing of Gaza on December 27th, 2008, millions of people around the world have mobilized against this atrocity. When a reporter asked Israeli foreign minister Tzipi Livni why, if she said that humanity and all the world are not to accept this genocide of 300,000 Gazans, where is the liquidation of this besieged people. Livni replied that there is no evidence that it happened.

We ask the people of the world: is this not Nakba-like, to claim that after more than 700 air strikes, killing 400 people, injuring 2000 people, shutting down electricity and all normal functioning of this infrastructure and civil operations, that there is no human rights crisis in that region.

The need for solidarity and action has never been greater given the destruction Israel has already caused and is continuing to do so. Experts have estimated the number of displaced people in the Gaza Strip at 200,000 and the number of dead in the last week of the Gaza war. A world against war is a world against the aggression without forcing them to ac- cept the occupation of Gaza to people and stop the ag-ression without forcing them to ac- cept the occupation of Gaza to people and stop the ag-ression without forcing them to ac- cept the occupation of Gaza to people and stop the ag-ression without forcing them to ac- cept the occupation of Gaza to people and stop the ag-ression without forcing them to ac- cept the occupation of Gaza to people and stop the ag-ression without forcing them to ac- cept the occupation of Gaza to people and stop the ag-ression without forcing them to ac- cept the occupation of Gaza to people and stop the ag-ression without forcing them to ac- cept the occupation of Gaza to people and stop the ag-ression without forcing them to ac- cept the occupation of Gaza to people and stop the ag-ression without forcing them to ac- cept the occupation of Gaza to people and stop the ag-ression without forcing them to ac- cept the 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They say that we are protected by international resolu- tions. We are not protected by any international resolution, but by the Arab-Israeli conflict, of which not even a single one has been implemented not even Resolution 425? Arab solidarity will protect us. What Arab solidarity- ity? Arab tackling days before they can agree on holding a meeting and have yet to agree on holding one now as a result of resignation here and there.

Brothers and sisters, what happened and is still happen- ing today in Gaza, and what took place during the July 2006 aggression should be enough to call on each and every Arab and every patriot living in his homeland that what can protect our people and resist any invader is the solidarity of Arabs and Muslims world-wide. All other options are mere illu- sions!

To wake up today without a Cordon sanitaire – in both Arab and Muslim worlds – do we need a hundred more massexes like the one in Gaza? Do we need the repetition of massexes like Deir Yassin? Do we need hundreds more massacres like that of the Ibrim Mosque? By God, this matter is deeply regrettable because this enemy, whom you want to please, offers you a new massacre every year or so as proof of its inher- ent aggressiveness, criminal nature and its thirst for the blood of the innocent.

Your calls for peace will only be met with more slaughters and murders. Do we need more massexes in order for our leaders, people and elite to realize that we are before an enemy whose inherent nature is brutality, racism, and terrorism, with which it is impossible to establish peace under any circum- stances. How then can peace with humiliating condi- tions be achieved with such an enemy? Do we need more blood to be convinced of that?

We are foremost that the people of the Gaza and the resistance have unshakable faith in God and divine victory, although some may not believe in this. Here and on your behalf, on behalf of Lebanon, the families of the martyrs, of prisoners, the wounded, and on behalf of every resistance movement, we honor and dignify Judges of Lebanon. I con- gratulate Gazans on their martyrs as we pay our condolences to the families of martyrs and ask God Almighty to grant for a speedy recovery of their wounded. The Gazans are on the field, steadfast in battle and have limitless devotion. They are a people of dignity, devoted and resistance.

I do not want to frighten anyone or cause concern, but we cannot misunderstand anyone as there are two possible options:

The first is that everything the Israelis say or do in the northern occupied region of Palestine may be presented as ruses, tricks and devilish moves to deal with any developments on the Lebanese front.

The other is that the Israeli enemy is conspiring with some Arab regimes and with the world preoccupied with the economic crisis in the Arab World in the US because of the departure of Bush and Obama, to take power in Lebanon and to con- tacting an aggression against Lebanon.

The Israelis may take advantage of this situation in the world to build a new era in which the Jews in the occupied territories can be seen in the world as main victims of creating such a situation to gain political leverage in their elections or to restore its deterrent image. You are providing Israel with excuses through such rhetoric, about Iran and unfounded statements. I will not delve deep into this matter now, but I am in the process of investigating a number of statements and after that I will write more. But I am sure that my focus now remains on Lebanon specifically, the country that rated Israel twice, and many more times than that. The political changes that characterized those years of the 2000s, Yes, we must be on alert. I do not want to frighten you but to avoid this subject from becoming a media frenzy, I will tell you that I asked the brothers in the south particularly, to be present, vigilant and cautious. Here is our responsibility, our solidarity as a people. We do not know the size of the schemes hatched around us. We are not going to sit here and watch. We are the result of what happened in 2006 or of what happened or what is happening in Gaza.

We believe in the choice we made, and are quite prepared to repel any assault on our land, our country, and our dignity. We have written our slogans in blood and are both willing and prepared to face all aggressors, no matter who they may be.

Brother and sisters, all of us in Lebanon, and throughout the Muslim and Arab worlds, are duty- bound in these historical days, especially in the ten days leading to Ashurah, to shoulder this responsibility towards what is happening in Gaza. The burden of what happens in Gaza is not only for the Gazans and Palestinians to bear.

We must continue in our efforts and actions, and should not settle for a protest here and a sit-in there. An honest and noble protest here and a sit-in there will invest every effort in defending our people in Gaza.

Havana, December 28, 2008 (Prensa Latina) -- Cuba has strongly condemned Israel's massive airstrikes on the Gaza Strip that have left more than 200 Palestinians dead and hundreds of other wounded.

In a statement issued early this morning, the Bolivarian government in Venezuela said 'the Gaza Strip civilians are being attacked daily and its voice before the international community in order to launch a massive rejection campaign of these terrible and violent actions, through which [the Israeli government] tries to eliminate the life expectancy of an entire people. This action could be the irrevocable 'hallmark' of the criminal administration of the outgoing government of the United States, a dying term of office fully occupied, which is known for its disregard of human rights.

The government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela calls on those countries loving peace and justice to raise their protecting voices against this aggression. And it also urges the United Nations Organisation to exert its author- ity and pressure the Israeli government to commit itself to end the ongoing state of violence practiced by Israel against Palestinian state. This is the only way to guarantee a lasting peace and the end of threat of wars, which are now a normal part of the daily life.

The Bolivarian Government demands an immediate cease of the acts of aggression from the State of Israel against the Palestinian people, that have already resulted in hundreds of deaths and injuries, affecting civilians including children.

The Bolivian Government demands that the United Nations and the Security Council, within the framework of the resolutions concerning to the conflict between Palestine and Israel, affirm a firm position of condemnation of Israel and urge it to cease immediately its aggression, and ensure the minimum of their legitimate rights, not even to have the right to vote.

In the Palestinian settlement, the negotiations at Camp David and the President of Palestinian present Yasir \-\ Arab Quartet were not held with the Likud or Kadima, on the premise that the negotiations are based on the Israeli conditions that exclude the 'right of return' to al-Quds (Jerusalem) and the national borders of Palestine in 1967. No, the negotiations were based on the Israeli conditions that exclude the 'right of return' to al-Quds (Jerusalem) and the national borders of Palestine in 1967.

The Palestinian government called for Israeli leaders to be tried in the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity.

On January 14, 2009, the People's Assembly in the Gaza Strip announced that the Israeli attacks on Gaza will continue for another two weeks and that the deadlines issued by its spokesperson, Gordon Johndroe, are astonishing, since he said the only way to stop this criminal aggression is through the United Nations to call on the Security Council to begin immediate actions; through which [the Israel government] tries to eliminate the life expectancy of an entire people.

The Palestinian government called for Israeli leaders to be tried in the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity. The Bolivian Goverment demands that the United Nations and the Security Council, within the framework of the resolutions concerning to the conflict between Palestine and Israel, affirm a firm position of condemnation of Israel and urge it to cease immediately its aggression, and ensure the minimum of their legitimate rights, not even to have the right to vote.

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