

stop the war! stop the occupations!

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MAWO 19
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mobilization against war & occupation

End the Siege on Gaza! Self-Determination for Palestine! Israeli Troops Out of Gaza Now!

~ mawo statement ~

Today, on January 3rd 2009, it has been confirmed that Israeli troops entered the Gaza Strip for military occupation and a further massacre of the Palestinian people. This was as expected - the first phase of the killing of Palestinians and the destruction of Gaza came to an end this morning. Over the last week, this has meant more than 700 air strikes, 450 dead and over 2000 injured. The next phase, the occupation of Gaza, will be bloodier and more destructive for the Palestinian people. The Israeli army will destroy hundreds and hundreds of homes, schools, mosques, medical facilities and all possible infrastructure, as well as killing hundreds more Palestinians in order to force them to surrender and accept Israel's

on November 3rd 2008 in which six Gazans were killed. They forgot that Israel's 'withdraw' from Gaza in 2005 was just a maneuver to maintain complete control over Gaza from land and sea. Since then, a million and a half people have struggled to live under siege, trapped in an open air prison which has been slowly strangling the Gazan population. To give a feeling for what the Israeli

WORLD CONDEMNS ISRAELI MASSACRE IN GAZA!

blockade has meant for life in Gaza today, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, only 41% of Gaza has electricity and people in Gaza are without power for up to 16 hours a day. Half of Gaza City's population is receiving water only once a week for a few hours. Unemployment has risen to almost 50% and only 23 out of 3900 industrial units are operational. Seventy percent of agricultural land is unusable and the financial system has collapsed completely. Today more than 79% of people in Gaza live under severe poverty.

This massacre of Palestinians and occupation of Gaza by the Israeli army must end immediately. People of the world do not accept this genocide. Since the attacks, shelling and bombing of Gaza on December 27th, 2008, millions of people around the world have marched and rallied against this brutality. When a reporter asked Israeli foreign minister Tzipi Livni, why Israel wouldn't let humanitarian aid be delivered to Gaza, Livni replied that there is no humanitarian crisis in the densely populated Gaza strip. We ask the people of the world: is this not Nazi-like thinking, to claim that after more than 700 air strikes, killing 450 people, injuring 2000 people, shutting down electricity and all normal functioning

of infrastructure and civil operations, that there is no humanitarian crisis in Gaza?!



The need for solidarity and action has never been greater given the destruction Israel has both promised and delivered over the past 60 years and particularly in the last week to the Gaza Strip. A world against war is a world which supports

the Palestinians in their fight for their self-determination and freedom.

of infrastructure and civil operations, that there is no humanitarian crisis in Gaza?!

**ISRAEL OUT OF PALESTINE!
ISRAEL OUT OF GAZA!
SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PALESTINIAN PEOPLE!
RIGHT OF RETURN FOR ALL PALESTINIANS!**

"Since this statement was written, the destruction of Gaza and the criminal killing of Palestinians by Israeli military forces has reached to the point that it has caused grave concern not only among peace-loving people around the world, but even United Nations and human rights organizations. For updates, please see the section 'How Much do you Know About the Genocide in Gaza?' at the back of this newsletter."

MAWO invites you to these public forums:

100 Years of Palestinian People in Struggle
The Massacre of Palestinians in Gaza is an Ongoing War Crime by the Israeli Zionist Regime

- What is the history of colonization of Palestine?
- Why is Israel attacking Gaza at this time?
- What issues are at stake?

SPEAKER: Ali Yerevani, Political Editor of Fire This Time Newspaper

>> **MONDAY** January 19 | 6:30pm | Joe's Cafe
(1150 Commercial Dr @ William St)

>> **THURSDAY** January 22 | 6:30pm | Whalley Public Library
(10347 135 St, Surrey - near Surrey Central Skytrain Station)

>> **TUESDAY** January 27 | 6:30pm | Bonsor Community Centre
(6550 Bonsor Ave @ Central Boulevard, near Metrotown Skytrain Station)

"We Ought to Make the World Hear Our Voice"

Talk by Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah

The Secretary General of Hezbollah, Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah, addressed a crowd of Lebanese supporters in a videoconference on December 28, 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 explicitly.

It is clear that America and Israel are pursuing a project in the region that seeks to impose an unequal settlement on the rest of the Arab world. After Egypt and Jordan signed so-called peace treaties with the Israelis, only Palestine, Lebanon and Syria remain, and the Americans and Zionists now want to settle the issue according to their conditions.

They want Palestinians, Lebanese and Syrians to obey and surrender to these conditions without having any other option.

To impose these conditions, Americans and Zionists are using force, pressure, blockade, internal strife, provocation of internal sedition among resistance movements, media, political and psychological warfare, assassinations and wars.

Their intention is to subdue those who have so far refused to yield to the will and conditions of America and Israel. Some Arab regimes have also been true accomplices in this project.

It is not true that there is Arab silence. We see help extended to Israel, I do not mean all Arabs or all Arab regimes; only those which have signed so-called peace treaties with Israel. Today they are helping Zionists politically, psychologically, socially, culturally and media-wise, through security and the military, on preparing the circumstances for the surrender of the resisters against the American-Zionist project in the Palestine issue.

So let us be very utterly clear. In our region, Arab countries are forging partnerships with the Israelis.

The 2006 war was waged against us in Lebanon with Arab consent and upon Arab request. The Israelis were crystal clear when they exposed this, and the Arab regimes cannot deny it because the Israelis may produce evidence of this collusion -- that they were contacted and asked to rid them (Arabs) of Hezbollah.

When the war started, they were comforting the Israelis after their initial failure in the first few days. Yet, those Arab regimes continued to demand Israel to eliminate of Hezbollah and that Israel sever Hezbollah's head.

The same thing is happening in Gaza today. Those same sides are asking Israel to eliminate Hamas, the Islamic Jihad and the rest of the resistance factions to do away with and settle this battle once and for all. The truth is that they are helping the Zionist entity in this.

We have heard, and this is very unfortunate, that Israeli officials say that the magnitude of Arab support for the war on Gaza well exceed the support they extended for the Israeli war on Lebanon in July 2006.

This is the true picture. I can even tell you that some of these Arab regimes are the real cause behind the division among the Palestinians.

These regimes contributed, instigated, financed and armed, so that fighting is drawn to Palestinian factions, exactly what they did in Lebanon before.

The former [Lebanese] cabinet would not have dared to make such notorious decisions on May 5, had it not been for the encouragement and support of these Arab regimes. They wanted to drag Lebanon into the grip of a cruel internal war and internal sedition, but the performance of the opposition in those days made all their efforts in vain.

They are not neutral. They are convinced that what they do is right and have committed themselves to this project, which is very unfortunate to see.

When infighting and internal division in Palestine or Lebanon happens, these very same Arab regimes use this as an excuse for inaction and say "Well, look at the Palestinians, what are we to do when they are killing one another?" They only use this excuse to rid themselves of their responsibility toward Palestine and Lebanon.

No one asked these Arab regimes in the July 2006 war nor today in the Gaza Strip to fight for the Lebanese or the Palestinians but only to adopt a fair and appropriate political stand on media issues to say the least. Yet again, as in the July War, we find the Arab regimes hold the victims responsible.

Brothers and sisters, this is the reality of today, the people of Gaza have made a difficult decision: they

are in effect exercising that decision with their steadfastness, resistance, defiance, honor and glory as you yourselves did in 2006.

No amount of sacrifices, destruction, tears, blood and abandonment prevents them from continuing to insist on their right to resistance. But what is the responsibility of the nation today?

As a nation our main goal has to be stopping Zionist attacks on Gaza and preventing Israelis from achieving any of their objectives. In this manner, Gaza will be secured despite the gravity of the sacrifices that have to be made. Every state must work toward this goal and not only the citizens of Gaza.

People whose governments have resorted to inaction must force them to act. There is no justification for anyone to say that they cannot do anything because of their repressive regimes.



We must take to the streets in the Arab and Muslim world. We must raise our voices and pressure our governments even if they shoot us, it is still a duty -- for whoever falls martyr in these protests is a martyr on the path to al-Quds (Jerusalem), a martyr of Islam, and a martyr of a whole line of prophets and divine missions, they are martyrs of humanity.

Officials cannot apologize for their inaction and nations cannot complain that they have suppressive rulers.

In the July war, I did not ask this of the Arab people, but in the case of Gaza, I say all of us are duty-bound to take to the streets by the thousands, by the tens and hundreds of thousands, and demand from these government to act responsibly. These governments know full well what they are capable of doing, particularly at a time when the United States and European countries are suffering from financial and economic turmoil.

First of all, today the Arab world possesses oil, money and political strength and with modest efforts can stop the aggression against our people and the people in Gaza.

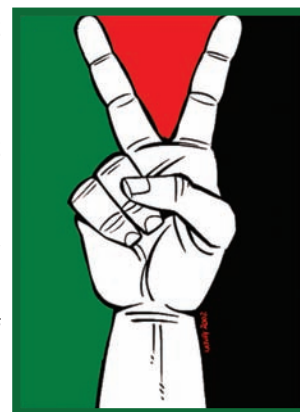
Secondly, the Arab and Muslim worlds must demand that the Egyptian regime, which has a crucial role in what is happening in Gaza today, not to enter war but to simply open the (Rafah) crossing for food, medicine, water and even weapons to reach our people in Gaza. The people in Gaza are men and women are victory-makers capable of resistance and steadfastness and have performed very well in the past.

In the July war in Lebanon, we did not ask any Arab country to open a battlefield but yes, we did ask for borders to be opened.

This is where we must acknowledge Syria for its assistance that led to our victory in the July war, because despite repeated aerial bombardment of all our border crossings and the main roads, Syria did not close its border with us.

We only ask of Egypt to indefinitely open the crossing for the sake of the living and not for the injured or the martyred.

Egypt, the largest and most important of Arab States, is not a Red Cross or a Red Crescent institution and will not be asked to deal with the people of Gaza in such manner.



What is required of the Egyptian leadership and regime is to resolve this issue and not to politically take advantage of the war to pressure Hamas and those of the resistance in Gaza in a bid to accept Israeli conditions in return for a ceasefire -- as some of us here in Lebanon did in the first days of the July aggression.

But they must politically help the people of Gaza and stop the aggression without forcing them to accept certain conditions. This is their real responsibility. This is what the Arab and Muslim worlds must be demanding of Egypt.

Up until now, we have been cautiously making appeals but after what happened yesterday, we say to the Egyptian regime:

If you do not open the Rafah border crossing, if you do not come to the rescue of your brothers in Gaza, then you are have a hand in the siege and the killing and in causing the Palestinian tragedy.

Egyptian officials have to hear this from all the people of the Arab and Muslims worlds, from religious scholars, political parties, elites, intellectuals and media professionals from all walks of life. They must know that they will be the condemned by history, the entire nation, the prophets and the martyrs if they are not quick to make a humane and historical stand today.

This part of my speech is directed at the people of
(continued on next page)



Statements by Cuba, Venezuela, and Bolivia

Three Revolutionary Governments Condemn Israel's Attack on Gaza

Statement by Cuba

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 in Havana, the Cuban revolutionary government called Israel's military operation "criminal", terming it as "the bloodiest attack Israel has ever launched against the Palestinian people".

The text notes such air raids are taking place amidst the illegal blockade the Israel government has enforced on the Gaza Strip over the last 18 months, with the aim of Palestinians, including children, women and elderly, to surrender by hunger and disease.

"Cuba strongly condemns this genocidal act by the Israeli government which violates the main principles of international law and the United National Charter", added the text.

"The Cuban government also urges the international community to condemn the massacre and to request an immediate end for the attacks against the Palestinian civil population. Cuba reiterates its unswerving solidarity and support for the heroic and long-suffering Palestinian people."

Statement by Venezuela

December 27, 2008 -- The President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, on behalf of the Bolivarian government, and as spokesperson of the Venezuelan people, wants to express his deep indignation at the criminal attack by Israel perpetrated against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

In this sense, the Bolivarian government expresses its solidarity with the Palestinian people and raises its voice before the international community in order to launch a massive rejection campaign of these terrible and violent actions; through which [the Israel government] tries to eliminate the life expectancy of an entire people.

The only government of the world that has been an accessory to this attack has been the US government. And the statements issued by its spokesperson, Gordon Johndroe, are astonishing, since he said the only way to stop violence in the region is by stopping attacks against Israel.

This action could be the invariable "hallmark" of the criminal administration of the outgoing government of the United States; a dying term of office full of violence, which is known worldwide for its persistent disrespect of human rights.

The government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela calls on those countries loving peace and justice to raise their protesting voices against this aggression. It also urges the United Nations Organisation to exert its authority and impose the numerous resolutions adopted in favour of the Palestinian people and against the state violence practiced by Israel government. This is the only way to guarantee a lasting peace and the end of these [attacks], which are absolutely against the United Nations Charter and other international regulations.

**UPDATE: On January 5, Venezuela expelled the Israeli ambassador in protest of the massacre of Palestinians in Gaza. On January 14, Venezuelan government cut all diplomatic relations with Israel.*

Statement by Bolivia

Faced with the extreme seriousness the ongoing events in Gaza Strip, a Palestinian territory of 360km², inhabited by 1,5 million people, the Bolivian Government deplors and express its most categorical rejection and condemnation of Israel government criminal aggression. The Israeli aerial attacks and the blockade over Gaza represent a severe and massive infringement of Humanitarian International Law, killing civilians, carrying out collective punishment against all the population of the region under the argument of responding to the action of certain militants, when in fact it was Israel that broke the truce by prolonging the blockade, that has been starving and devastating inhabitants of Gaza. This act become further worse, due that civilian targets that cannot be define as military like university study centres, are being hit by these attacks.

The Bolivian Government demands an immediate cease of this 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, adopt a firm position of condemnation against Israel and urges the discard a military solution, by the State of Israel for an issue thatdemands, above all, the acknowledgement of a viable Palestinian State as stipulated U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), the Oslo Accords within the 1967 borders.

**UPDATE: On January 14, Bolivia broke off diplomatic relations with Israel over the attacks on Gaza, and called for Israeli leaders to be tried in the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity.*

Talk by Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah (continued from front)

Egypt, its Muslim, its Arabs, its proud people, the defiant, generous, resistance-loving, decent, courageous and noble people of Egypt, whom we all know what goes on in their hearts and minds. We know their mentality. Let the Egyptian people take to the streets in their millions.

Can the Egyptian police arrest millions of Egyptians?

No! They cannot!

We call upon the people of Egypt because they are the ones facing the regime which has closed the Rafah crossing.

People of Egypt, you must open the Rafah crossing with your bear hands if you must. I am talking of the position of a member of the resistance that fought for 33 days, and on behalf of the people who fought, sacrificed and gave martyrs.

What we know and what we hear about the officers and soldiers of the Egyptian armed forces, who are still proud of their Arab roots and continue to oppose Zionism, despite decades having passed from the Camp David peace agreement.

That is what rulers of the Arab world and the Egyptian peoples must demand from the rulers of Egypt. If the Rafah crossing is opened for water, medicine, food, money and weapons to our people in Gaza, the epic victory that took place in Lebanon will be once again be repeated. We are confident of this victory despite all the harsh conditions of our people in the Gaza Strip.

Brothers and sisters, should Gaza endure this onslaught for days or weeks, the aggression will stop, as this enemy does not endure a war of attrition nor withstand the long days of war. This enemy will eventually end the aggression; it will fail in its objectives and with that their leaders who wanted to take political power by shedding Palestinian blood will fail.

Yes, some will tell us, in Lebanon too, that the solu-

tion lies in comprehensive peace. They will tell us this is the solution that will end the tragedy! Regardless of our ideologically principled position on the subject of comprehensive peace, I ask them what they have achieved from talks with Israel since Madrid and even before Madrid other than being subjected to further massacres, killings, aggression and more humiliation and the yielding to various conditions?

In the Palestinian settlement, the negotiations at Camp David by the late Palestinian president Yasser Arafat were not held with the Likud or Kadima, but with the Labor Party and Barak himself. However, at Camp David, the Palestinians were not even ensured the minimum of their legitimate rights, not even enough to save face.

Which kind of just and comprehensive peace can be achieved be accepting humiliating Israeli conditions that exclude the 'right of return' to al-Quds (Jerusalem), the Palestinian territories where a viable Palestinian state can be established? What is all this nonsense when people are being killed and slaughtered in Palestine?!

As in the past and now in Lebanon, some talk about 'just and comprehensive peace'. I ask them whether they have managed to first convince the Israelis that a 'just and comprehensive peace' can be established that they now demand resistance movements to lay down their arms?

Have the Israelis ever made any concessions until now, in Lebanon, Palestine or anywhere for that matter?

Have the Israelis ever returned your legitimate rights, at least the minimum of them? Never! Some tell us such nonsense that in Lebanon the international community will protect us; well where is the international community that is supposed to be protecting the unarmed people in Gaza, the children and women of Gaza?

(continued above right)

MAWO Newsletter #19 Created by: Nita Palmer, Thomas Davies, Ali Yerevani

They say that we are protected by international resolutions. Where are the international resolutions in the Arab-Israeli conflict, of which not even a single one has been implemented not even Resolution 425?

Arab solidarity will protects us. What Arab solidarity?! Arab rulers waste days before they can agree on holding a meeting and have yet to agree on holding one now as a result of reservations here and there!

Brothers and sisters, what happened and is still happening today in Gaza, and what took place during the July 2006 aggression should be enough to convince each and every Arab and every patriot living in his homeland that what can protect our people and restore our rights is resistance and jihad. All other options are mere illusions!

To wake us up from our slumber -- in both Arab and Muslim worlds -- do we need a hundred more massacres like

Qana and Gaza? Do we need the repetition of massacres like Deir Yassin? Do we need hundreds more massacres like that of the Ibrahim Mosque?

By God, this matter is deeply regrettable because this enemy, whom you want peace with, offers you a new massacre every year or so as proof of its inherent terrorist, criminal and racist nature and its thirst for the blood of the innocent.

Your calls for peace will only be met with more slaughters and murder. Do we need more massacres 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 whom it is impossible to establish peace under any circumstances. How then can peace with humiliating conditions be achieved with such an enemy? Do we need more blood to be convinced of that?

We are confident that the people of 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 the resistance of Lebanon, the families of the martyrs, of prisoners, the wounded, and on behalf of every resistance member and honorable Mujahid in Lebanon, I congratulate Gazans on their martyrs as we pay our condolences to the families of martyrs and ask God Almighty 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, defiance and resistance.

I do not want to frighten anyone or cause concern, but we cannot mislead anyone here as there are two possibilities:

The first is that everything the Israelis say or do in the northern occupied region of Palestine may be preventative precautions 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 financial crisis and the political vacuum created in the US because of the departure of Bush and Obama taking power, it is pondering an act of aggression against Lebanon.

The Israelis may take advantage of this situation in the world to strike Lebanon as they are in need 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 and absurd and unfounded statements. I will not delve deep into this matter now, but I am in the process of inviting Lebanon, as I do the region, yet my focus now remains on Lebanon specifically,

the country that rattled Israel twice, and many more times, the most well-known of such defeats were those of the years 2000 and 2006.

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 as we face a brutal and treacherous enemy. We do not know the size of the schemes hatched around us, regionally and in the world; we are not fearful 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, country and dignity. We have written our slogans in blood and are both willing and prepared to confront all aggressors, no matter who they may be.



Rally against Israeli attacks on Gaza, Beirut, Lebanon, December 29

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 Ashura, to shoulder our responsibility toward 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 action here and another there; we ought to invest every effort in defending our people in Gaza.

How Much Do You Know About The Genocide In Gaza?

- ▶ As of January 15, 2009:
- >> Over 1100 Palestinians have been killed.
- >> This is equivalent to 22,000 people in Canada being killed in two weeks.
- >> Half of them are women and children.
- >> This is equivalent to 11,000 women and children in Canada being killed in two weeks.
- >> 200 women and 320 children are among them.
- >> This is equivalent to 4,000 women and 6,400 children in Canada being killed in two weeks.
- >> The Israeli army is using white phosphorus, a chemical which causes deadly burns on contact.
- >> They are also using depleted uranium bombs, which cause cancer in women and children as well as birth defects.
- >> There are 5,500 Palestinian casualties so far.
- >> This is equivalent to 110,000 casualties in Canada in two weeks.
- >> Israel has declared all of Gaza a war zone. Hundreds of homes, hospitals, clinics, schools, and even United Nations buildings have been destroyed.
- >> January 15 - A United Nations compound in central Gaza city was attacked, destroying thousands of pounds of food aid for the people of Gaza.
- >> A coalition of nine Israeli human rights groups, as well as dozens of international human rights organizations believe that the Israeli military is committing war crimes in Gaza.
- >> Israeli collective punishment: Up till January 15, 23 Israelis have been killed, against 1100 Palestinians. For each one Israeli killed by Hamas, 50 Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli army.
- >> The entire Gaza strip has been turned into a free fire zone and the Israeli army shoots anything that moves. There is no electricity, no water, catastrophic food shortage, and hospitals lack everything. Israel is committing a Palestinian Holocaust.

Get involved



Meetings
Wednesdays - 6:30PM
For location, please visit our website:
mawovancouver.org
e. info@mawovancouver.org
t. 604-322-1764
f. 604-322-1763

with MAWO!

Upcoming Direct Actions Organized by Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO)

MAWO Forum: 'Canada's War at Home: Homelessness and the Housing Problem in a Time of War and Occupation'
WEDNESDAY January 28 | 6:30pm | Joe's Cafe - 1150 Commercial Dr (@ William St)

Canada Out Of Afghanistan! MAWO's 50th Picket Action
THURSDAY January 29 | 3:00pm
620 Royal Avenue, New Westminster (near 6th Street, beside Douglas College)

MAWO Antiwar Cultural Night: 'Beats Of Change'
SATURDAY January 31 | El Rancho Restaurant - 112 Kingsway at Broadway
Doors at 7:00pm | Show at 8:00pm