

A Call upon the International and Regional Communities Say STOP to Israeli War on Lebanon

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The Arab NGO Network for Development**

Lebanon has been under a war attack by Israel for the fifth day since Wednesday the 12th of July 2006. The situation has been deteriorating and the military attacks have been escalating.

Israeli aggression against Lebanon went far beyond a reaction to a military operation targeting its soldiers. The capture of Israeli soldiers is serving as a mere pretext for a major offensive attack by Israel on the aspirations and the morale of the Lebanese people, as is the case with the Palestinian people through the continuous attacks on Gaza. Israeli army is targeting Lebanese civilians and civil infrastructure. The Israeli aggression against Lebanon can be described as a collective punishment against all the Lebanese people. More than 100 victims and thousands of injured inhabitants is the result of the first four days of the attack. In addition to human losses, three airports were targeted and all the coastal ports and transport and communications infrastructure including wheat elevators, bridges, and power stations have been bombed and rendered unusable.

Moreover, Israeli army was given the political encouragement and green light from the newly elected Israeli prime Minister and his government to systematically siege the Lebanese people and fragment Lebanese villages, towns, and cities into isolated areas. ANND condemns Israeli military aggression against civilians which is a direct violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention that prohibits the attacks on the civilian infrastructure.

From an alive, peaceful, and secure country, Lebanon became a shattered country not able to protect its citizens and cities. Lebanon is in an urgent need for relief support and solidarity in order to face the challenges related to displacement and injuries, in addition to the reconstruction plan of the destructions resulting from the Israeli aggression.

The Arab NGO Network for Development calls upon the international community to immediately intervene in order to protect civilians and to end Israeli aggression against Lebanon. ANND joins the call of the Lebanese prime minister to an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire under the support of a strong UN Peacekeeping Mission supervision.

We call upon the international community to condemn the Israeli attack as "state terrorism". The targeting of civilians and deliberate creation of terror is terrorism. We need a clear and wide affirmation from the international community that human life is precious irrespective of nationality or religion. The right to life and security is above any other consideration.

We call upon all concerned civil society organizations around the world to voice out their refusal for the current attack on Lebanon and the ineffective role of the United Nations whether at the level of Security Council or at the level of their peacekeeping troops on the grounds which are failing to protect the threatened civilians from the massacres resulting from Israeli attacks on Lebanon.

We call upon Arab civil society groups to mobilize on a regional and international level; to push their governments and their country missions at the United Nations in New York to take action whether through diplomatic channels or the United Nations channels to stop the brutal Israeli military attacks on Lebanon. We ask them to push their governments to call for a General Assembly of the United Nations, which have the right in the case of failure of the Security Council, to take action against military attacks on any country.

We believe that the people around the world, who believe in human rights and the right to life and security, have a big role to say NO against such an unexplainable attack on Lebanon. We call upon them to take their refusal to the streets, to voice their refusal to such fierce and brutal aggression over Lebanon.

We depend on you.