

8-7-2006

**PNGO STATEMENT OF CONDEMNATION OF ISRAELI  
ATTACK ON NORTH GAZA AND A CALL ON THE  
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR INTERVENTION**

The Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO) calls upon the United Nations, and the international community, to intervene and stop the Israeli Occupation forces attacks on the Palestinian people, which have been concentrated in the northern Gaza Strip since the night of 5 July 2006. The serious escalation of Israeli attacks against Palestinian citizens and property utilizing heavy arms, including tanks and air force, caused outrageous impacts of civilian life and property. During the first 48 hours of the attack, codenamed 35 Palestinians were killed, including children, at least 150 injured, Palestinian houses were destroyed, and hundreds dunams of agricultural land was levelled by the Israeli occupational forces.

It should be noted here that the Israeli occupational forces attacks has been concentrated on the north Gaza towns of Jabaliya, Beit Lahia and Beit Hanoun. Thousands of Palestinian citizens are suffering due to the tight closures imposed by Israeli forces on the area, the lack of food and water, and the continuous electricity cut-off.

Israeli Jet fighters targeted and destroyed the last week power transformers at the Nuseirat power station, severely disrupting electricity supplies and, as a direct consequence, other vital services such as water to hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. Gaza's public water supply is pumped by electricity, well water is purified through machinery run by electricity. Otherwise, the brackish water must at least be boiled before it can be consumed, but this requires electricity or gas. And people will soon have neither.

Additionally, Israeli occupation forces continue to impose closure and siege on the Gaza Strip, closing borders and the Rafah International Crossing Point has been completely closed since June 25, 2006, leaving thousands of Palestinian travelers stuck on the Egyptian side of the border. Among these travelers are women, children, elderly and ill persons returning after medical treatment in Egypt. They are enduring inadequate living and health conditions while waiting to enter Gaza.

The PNGO, is a coordinating body for more than 100 NGOs strongly condemns the criminal actions committed by the Israeli Occupation

forces against the Palestinian people. Israel continues to ignore all international treaties, international human rights and humanitarian law.

PNGO calls upon the international community to stop its silence and act immediately to protect civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), PNGO believes that condemnation of the Israeli violations is not sufficient, and demands effective pressure on Israel to ensure respect for international law and treaties, including the Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War.

PNGO also calls on the international community and human rights organizations to intensify their actions to stop the Israeli attack on Palestinian civilians, especially children, and their property.

PNGO especially calls upon the international community to take immediate action to bring the Israeli perpetrators to international justice and call for an end of the ongoing occupation.

PNGO welcome the United Nations Human Rights Council in its first-ever special session in Geneva on June 6<sup>th</sup> decision to send fact-finding mission to occupied Palestinian territories.

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