

CATALAN MAYORS FOR PEACE CALL FOR AN IMMEDIATE STOP OF THE ARMED CONFLICT IN GAZA

For weeks, the Palestinian population of Gaza are suffering the consequences of an armed conflict that seems to have no end. The bombings of the Israeli army have killed hundreds of people, many of whom are children. Hamas rockets also caused Israeli casualties. Whole families had to leave their homes and bombings have caused damage to vital infrastructure. The vast majority of victims are civilians.

With borders closed, citizens cannot escape and become innocent victims of this situation. Note that the direct attack on civilian targets, furthermore to be unacceptable and reprehensible, is considered a war crime under international law. These facts, therefore, need to be investigated and prosecuted.

As mayors, which our primary function is to ensure the welfare of citizens, we strongly condemn any use of force and we are in full sympathy with the people of Gaza. As members of the international network of Mayors for Peace, an organization with more than 6,000 member cities around the world committed to peace, we cannot remain indifferent to these facts. There is no justification for using violence to resolve conflicts. We urge to stop all bombing against villages and cities.

We call on governments to work towards a peaceful solution for the conflict. We ask not attack populated areas and require that do not use weapons against defenceless civilian population. We ask the international community to act immediately to stop all bombings, protect civilians and initiate good faith negotiations leading to a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

July, 21th, 2014

Catalan section of Mayors for Peace



Number: 01-45-3446/14
Sarajevo, July 24th, 2014

MAYORS FOR PEACE SECRETARIAT
Mr. Matsui Kazumi, President
Mayor of Hiroshima
1-5 Nakajima-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima
JAPAN

Subject: Appeal for termination of armed conflict in Gaza Strip and Israel

Dear Mr. Kazumi,

In accordance with the Conclusions of Sarajevo City Council, issued at its 16th Assembly held on July 23rd 2014, in my capacity as Mayor of the City of Sarajevo I am obliged to appeal to your esteemed international association, of which City of Sarajevo is a member, with a request to send an appeal through the United Nations to the governments of Palestine and Israel to terminate the conflict immediately and renew political and diplomatic negotiations on permanent resolution of the longlasting crisis in the region.

Furthermore, I kindly ask you to forward the appeal to all other member cities of the association in order that they could join us the condemnation of the attack of civilian population.


Having in mind the sacredness of human lives especially that of innocent children, we all should take over responsibility and use our authority to take strong and decisive action to terminate the bloodshed in the Gaza Strip and Israel. Harshly condemning all kinds of violence I express my belief that the world is once again put to the test and that global peace relies heavily on the efficient resolution of this matter.

Sarajevo- a suffering city, which went through a four-year Calvary, suffered a great loss of human life and most brutal destruction, strongly rejects violence as a method of resolution of political issues and calls for dialogue and compromise.

City of Sarajevo which has harboured the spirit of tolerance and coexistence for centuries wishes to send messages of peace and appeals to the Middle Eastern cities to become like Sarajevo, symbols of struggle for life over death, tolerance, coexistence and democracy.

Yours sincerely,

Mayor of Sarajevo


Ivo Komšić Ph.D.

