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Organización no Gubernamental con Estatuto Consultivo ante la O.N.U.

STATEMENT BY THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF JURISTS CONCERNING THE AGGRESSION AND HUMANITARIAN CRISIS CAUSED BY ISRAEL IN GAZA

The AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF JURISTS (AAJ), a non-governmental organization with consultative status in the United Nations Economic and Social Council, opposes Israel's military attacks and bombardments in Gaza, and hereby declares:

Its strong condemnation of all violent acts against the civilian population perpetrated by the parties in conflict, and as a result of the occupation of Israel in Palestinian territories. Specifically, the AAJ condemns the disproportionate use of force by Israel, once again, shown in the bombardments of December 27, 2008, against Gaza, resulting in 280 deaths and more than 900 injured. The blockade imposed by the Israeli government against the Palestinian population situated in the Gaza Strip has caused a humanitarian crisis of great proportions, and constitutes a gross violation of human rights, international law, and the Geneva Conventions which apply to armed conflict situations, affecting the right to life, health, and the right to food.

That Israel's military show of force in Gaza responds to an occupation policy and repression of the Palestinians in the occupied territories which has its roots in 1967, and has been an obstacle to the solution of the conflict that, after sixty years, still affects the whole region. It constitutes also a permanent threat to the international peace and security.

Therefore, the AAJ calls for an immediate halt of the violence and the implementation of a cease-fire in Gaza. The AAJ, also, compels Israel to comply with its duty as an occupying force, pursuant Geneva Conventions and other international instruments; and demands that Israel takes all the necessary steps to guarantee that humanitarian and medical aid reaches Gaza. On the other hand, the AAJ again stresses that, in order to end the conflict and achieve a lasting peace in the region, Israel should immediately withdraw from the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem; in addition, to dismantle all Israeli settlements; and to immediately cease the extrajudicial summary executions and killings. The AAJ urges the United Nations to condemn Israel's acts and to protect the Palestinian People without delay.

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