

October 30, 2009

Re: UNGA Resolution on Goldstone Report

Your Excellency,

We, the undersigned civil society organizations, are writing to urge your government to support recommendations in the Report of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict (Goldstone Report) and work with others in the General Assembly to secure adoption of a resolution calling on the Israeli Government and relevant Palestinian authorities in Gaza to launch independent investigations, in conformity with international standards, into the serious violations of International Humanitarian and International Human Rights Law reported by the Mission and to ensure the establishment of an appropriate international mechanism to provide an independent assessment of the investigations.

We believe it is imperative that the UN General Assembly demonstrate its unequivocal support for human rights and the protection of Israeli and Palestinian civilians. Credible, independent investigations of the findings of the Goldstone Report, with an objective review of the investigations, will promote accountability among all parties to the conflict and put an end to the culture of impunity.

We believe the international community must demonstrate resolve on the issue of accountability on both sides of this conflict, and ensure that international law is upheld. It is this approach which will strengthen the chances of peace and justice for Israelis and Palestinians.

With assurances of our highest consideration,

1. African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (Gambia)
2. African Democracy Forum (Kenya)
3. Associação Justiça, Paz e Democracia (Angola)
4. Bahrain Center for Human Rights (Bahrain)
5. Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (Egypt)
6. The Carter Center (United States)
7. Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria (South Africa)
8. Center for Constitutional Rights (United States)
9. Centro des Derechos Humanos - Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez (Mexico)
10. Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (Argentina)
11. La Coalition Ivoirienne des Défenseurs des Droits Humains (Cote D'Ivoire)

12. Conectas Direitos Humanos (Brazil)
13. Corporacion Humanas (Chile)
14. Democracy Coalition Project (United States)
15. Droits Humains Sans Frontières (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
16. East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Network (on behalf of 65 member organizations) (Uganda)
17. Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (Egypt)
18. Fédération Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme (France)
19. Human Rights Institute of South Africa (South Africa)
20. Human Rights Now (Japan)
21. Human Rights Watch (United States)
22. Human Rights Working Group – Indonesia (Indonesia)
23. International Center for Transitional Justice (United States)
24. International Commission Of Jurists (Switzerland)
25. Latvian NGDO Platform – LAPAS (Latvia)
26. L'ONG SOS Exclusion (Cote D'Ivoire)
27. Movement of Civil Liberties and Democracy -HAQ (Bahrain)
28. Open Society Institute (United States)
29. Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (Gaza, Palestine)
30. Partnership for Justice (Nigeria)
31. Physicians for Human Rights (Israel)
32. Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (Israel)
33. South African Council of Churches (South Africa)
34. Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union (Ukraine)
35. West African Human Rights Defenders Network (Togo)