



To: Prime Minister, Mr. Ehud Olmert
Foreign Affairs Minister, Ms. Tzipi Livni
Defense Minister, Mr. Ehud Barak

January 1st, 2009

We, women of Isha L'Isha¹, are following with grave concern the violent events in our area and the deadly, irresponsible attacks of the Government of Israel on the residents of Gaza, which leads hundreds of thousands of residents in Israel to a situation of war and economic paralysis.

The attacks of the air-force are perpetrated against high-density population, including our sisters, the women and daughters of Gaza, who are imprisoned, without any option to flee, due to the siege that Israel is imposing. These attacks are taking place after many long months of blockade which has eaten up to the core all infrastructure the Gaza residents need in order to find shelter, protect their children and the civilian populations, supply medicines and food to the injured, etc.

We strongly oppose the view that these attacks are defending us in any way, and view them as deepening of the bloodshed and war and as a threat to the hope for peace and quite in our area.

We view the Government of Israel as the primary responsible party for this violence, as the strong side, and the Hamas as a secondary responsible party, as the less strong side in this war.

We share the restlessness widespread among many people in Israeli society regarding this warring policy and share their realization that the use of disproportionate force does not lead to security but to insecurity, as indeed happened in the attacks in Jenin and in Lebanon. Deepening of violence acts to undermine the very basis of democracy as it throws society to the management of military persons. It acts to deepen societal gaps as economic life in the periphery is brought to a halt. Moreover, it causes devastating damage to the freedom struggle of women in Gaza, in Israel and everywhere violence claims governance.

Additionally, we oppose every attempt to undermine the legitimacy of Jews and Arabs to contest this war operation. understanding that our fate is a shard one, and that we can only hope for a future if we base our present on collaboration. We strongly resist all attempts to separate between Arabs and Jews in Israeli society.

In our name, and in the name of the next generations for which we are responsible as part of our responsibility as citizens, we call upon the Government of Israel to bring about the end of the cruel siege on Gaza, to stop immediately its attacks, to free the residents of the south from their role as hostages in the hands of politics without future, and to fulfill the role for which it was elected – to bring about prosperity and economic security, peace and security, today and for generations to come, for all women and men in Israeli society, while creating true alliances with all the residents of the area.

Women of Isha L'Isha

¹ Isha L'Isha is a feminist community, and its members are Jewish and Arab, Mizrahi and Ashkenazi, religious, traditionalist and secular, heterosexual, bisexual and lesbian, old and young, employees, unemployed and independent women.