

PRESS RELEASE
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Palestine Liberation Organization
Negotiations Affairs Department
Ramallah, occupied Palestinian territory

PRESIDENT ABBAS MEETS OLMERT TO REGISTER OUTRAGE OVER ISRAELI ACTIONS IN OCCUPIED GAZA & EAST JERUSALEM

~~This morning~~ today, Chief Palestinian Negotiator Dr. Saeb Erekat made the following statement regarding President Abbas's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

"President Abbas met today with Prime Minister Olmert in order to express in person his outrage over Israel's tightening siege of the occupied Gaza Strip, and its recent actions in occupied East Jerusalem. President Abbas told Olmert that Israel must lift its illegal siege of the Gaza Strip and immediately allow badly needed supplies and humanitarian aid to reach the beleaguered population. The President also informed the Israeli Prime Minister that Israel must implement the three-year-old Agreement on Movement and Access as a matter of urgency." said Dr Erekat.

~~President Abbas told Olmert that Israel must lift its illegal siege of the Gaza Strip and immediately allow badly needed supplies and humanitarian aid to reach the beleaguered population, and that Israel must implement the three year old Agreement on Movement and Access as a matter of urgency."~~

The tightening of Israel's blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip, which began on ~~4~~ 2 November, has prevented deliveries of food, fuel and medicine from entering the territory. On Friday, 14 November, the United Nations was forced to suspend a food program serving 750,000 people due to the blockade. Yesterday, 16 November, Israeli forces at the Kerem Shalom crossing between Israel and the occupied Gaza Strip denied entry to 15 trucks carrying medical supplies, prompting health officials to warn of an impending health crisis. Israel has also blocked deliveries of fuel to Gaza's power plant for ~~five~~ six consecutive days, thus threatening the lives of thousands of innocent Palestinians.

Meanwhile, in occupied East Jerusalem, Israeli authorities have carried out a wave of demolitions against Palestinians in recent days in an attempt to reinforce Israeli control over the city and pave the way for further settlement expansion. Several Palestinian families lost their homes and became displaced as a result of the demolitions [REDACTED]

"Israeli security can never be achieved through collective punishment, mass starvation and depriving Palestinian families in Gaza of basic necessities, including essential humanitarian aid. In addition, ~~the will~~ displacement of ~~ing more~~ more Palestinians and expansion in order to expand of Jewish settlements in occupied East Jerusalem can only further erode the prospect~~se~~ of peace," continued Dr Erekat. "Israel's political leadership must decide whether it will pursue the path of peace and security or the perpetuation of the conflict through collective punishment, dispossession and destruction. It is in the interests of everyone that the cease-fire in Gaza be maintained." [REDACTED]

| At the Annapolis Conference on 27 November 2008⁷, Israel reaffirmed its commitment to its Road Map obligations, including halting “*confiscation and/or demolition of Palestinian homes and property*” and “*freez[ing] all settlement activity.*” Yet since Annapolis, Israel has increased its demolitions of Palestinian homes and accelerated its settlement activity.

| ~~Approximately fifty six percent of the population of the occupied Gaza Strip are children. Denying an occupied population food and medical supplies is a contravention of international humanitarian law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention.~~

| In the Agreement on Movement and Access ([AMA](#)) signed on 15 November 2005, Israel agreed to allow the crossing points between Israel and the **occupied Palestinian territory** to “*operate continuously.*” Israel also committed to “*allow[ing] the passage of convoys to facilitate the movements of goods and persons*” between the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. To date, Israel has failed to implement the AMA.

Palestinian officials, including Dr Erekat, have repeatedly called for the establishment of an enforcement mechanism to ensure that both parties honor their respective commitments.

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For more information, please contact:

Negotiations Support Unit, Communications Department, Ramallah
+972 2 296 3741