



NGO "O"

20 February 2007

Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary General  
United Nations  
New York  
NY10017  
USA

Oxfam House  
John Smith Drive  
Cowley, Oxford, OX4 2JY  
Switchboard: 0870 333 2444  
Direct Line: 01865 472436  
Fax: 01865 472317  
[www.oxfam.org.uk](http://www.oxfam.org.uk)

Fax: 001212-963-7055

Dear Secretary General

Oxfam International remains seriously concerned by the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

As Oxfam warned in April 2006, the suspension of international aid to the Palestinian Authority and Israel's withholding of Palestinian tax revenue has had devastating impact on the lives of ordinary Palestinians and led to a 30 per cent increase in poverty in the last year.

Palestinians, and our partner organisations, report increasing difficulties their daily lives. They are unable to meet their daily food needs, are no longer able to access medical treatments previously provided by their government, and unable to afford key services including power. They are also facing increasing tensions and insecurity that could have unpredictable consequences.

While Oxfam recognises that the Quartet has sought to address this situation by expanding the Temporary International Mechanism, this has been insufficient to meet the growing needs. Oxfam also fears that this mechanism will hasten the collapse of existing state structures best able to deliver essential services to Palestinians.

We believe the Quartet should grasp the opportunity provided by the National Unity Government and immediately resume aid to the Palestinian Authority. Now is the time to show the flexible response, offered in previous Quartet meetings. It should also do everything possible to ensure that Israel's repays Palestinian tax money it is withholding. Isolating the new Palestinian government and its people will not deliver peace and threatens to destabilise the region.

Yours sincerely

Barbara Stocking  
Director, Oxfam GB

**Oxfam works with others to overcome poverty and suffering**

Director: Barbara Stocking CBE. Registered charity No. 202918. A company limited by guarantee and registered in England No. 612172.  
Registered office Oxfam House, John Smith Drive, Cowley, Oxford, OX4 2JY. Oxfam GB is a member of Oxfam International.  
Printed on environment-friendly paper.