



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

27 August 2014

Dear Mr. Foxman,

It was a pleasure to meet with you and your colleagues on 13 August 2014 to exchange views on the unfolding crisis in Gaza. I would also like to thank you for your letter dated 12 August 2014 in this regard.

Since the beginning of the crisis, I have consistently and unequivocally repeated that Israel has a right to defend itself against the indiscriminate firing of rockets by Hamas and other groups. I have also repeated several times that it is of utmost importance to preserve the sanctity of United Nations facilities. I have consistently condemned any violations of international humanitarian law and called upon all sides to respect it.

As you rightly note in your letter, civilians continue to pay a very heavy price in the third confrontation in six years.

Lasting security for Israelis and Palestinians will ultimately come through a comprehensive settlement based on a two-State solution mutually agreed by the parties. In order to prevent a repeat of the cycle of violence, it is essential to put in place a mechanism that ensures that the opening of crossings for humanitarian reasons is compatible with the legitimate security concerns of Israel. I remain hopeful that this could be facilitated by the return of the Palestinian Authority in Gaza, exercising effective sovereignty, including through the deployment of its security forces.

Rest assured that I will continue to spare no effort in the pursuit of peace and stability in the Middle East while ensuring that the United Nations upholds the highest standards of impartiality, neutrality and objectivity.

Thank you again for sharing your concern. I look forward to continuing our dialogue on these matters.

Yours sincerely,

Ki Moon Ban
BAN/Ki-moon

Mr. Abraham H. Foxman
National Director
Anti-Defamation League
New York



14-07651

EXR/07/002

POL/09/005

United Nations



Nations Unies

Executive Office of the Secretary-General
Cabinet du Secrétaire général

To: CDC (through DSG),

Please find attached, for your approval and SG's signature, a reply letter to Mr. Abraham H. Foxman, National Director of the Anti-Defamation League regarding Gaza.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'AR'.

Political Unit
26 August 2014

Received in ODSG

27 August 2014

Seen by:

ER

Rec'd in OCdC on 28 Aug '14.

14-07651

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OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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		<input type="checkbox"/> Unclassified	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Confidential	<input type="checkbox"/> Strictly Confidential
TO/A: Mr. Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General				
CC: Ms. Susana Malcorra, Chef de Cabinet				
FROM/DE: Jeffrey Feltman, USG/ DPA				
Date: 22 August 2014	Ext: 3-5055	Room No. – No de bureau: S-3516		
FOR ACTION		POUR SUITE A DONNER		
FOR YOUR ATTENTION		FOR VOTRE ATTENTION		
FOR INFORMATION		POUR INFORMATION		
FOR APPROVAL / SIGNATURE	X	POUR APPROBATION / SIGNATURE		
FOR COMMENTS		POUR OBSERVATIONS		
AS REQUESTED		SUITE A VOTRE DEMANDE		
RETURN		RETOURNER		

Reply letter to the Anti-Defamation League on Gaza

Please find attached for the Secretary-General's approval and signature, a draft reply letter to the letter of Mr. Abraham H. Foxman, National Director of the Anti-Defamation League, dated 12 August 2014 on Gaza.

14-07272
ExR/07/002; POL/09/005

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OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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August 12, 2014

The Honorable Ban Ki-moon
Secretary General
United Nations Secretariat
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

We write once again to express concern about the tone and content of your statements on the continuing hostilities resulting from Hamas' defiant refusal to end violent attacks against Israel.

Most recently, your August 6, 2014 statement to the UN General Assembly on the situation in Gaza suggested that Israel bears a greater share of the responsibility than Hamas for the tragic plight of the people in Gaza.

Hamas is an organization whose foundational charter is an anti-Semitic and violent blueprint for Israel's destruction, and whose leaders repeatedly reinforce their commitment to its odious principles by calling for and perpetrating violence against Israel and Jews. The world has yet to hear you clearly and unambiguously state these simple indisputable facts; to call on member states of the United Nations to censure such wanton disregard for humane norms; and, to urge them to bring to bear the full force of the world body on Hamas to end its quest for the destruction of another member state.

Your call for "moral leadership" on both sides obscures the entrenched immorality and illegitimacy of Hamas. There is no moral justification for Hamas to be armed and no tactical or strategic imperative for Hamas to store and deploy its weapons amid the civilian population of Gaza.

Excellency, we are mindful of the deep pain resulting from loss of the lives of UN personnel and the damage to UN facilities in Gaza, and offer our condolences. The noble humanitarian mission in Gaza is one which should be permitted to achieve its goal of improving the lives of the people living there. Unfortunately, Hamas has abused UN facilities and manipulated humanitarian efforts to support its unrestrained violence.

We strongly urge you to condemn Hamas' anti-Semitic and violent philosophy and activities, in all your public comments on the situation in Gaza and to hold Hamas accountable for its blatant disregard for the human rights of Palestinians in Gaza and civilians in Israel.

Sincerely,

Abraham H. Foxman
National Director

Imagine a World Without Hate

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