

US

Middle East Q

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28-14909/29-00501

29-00501

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Note to Mr. Nambiar

LETTER TO THE US CONGRESSMAN DENNIS KUCINICH

1. Please find attached a draft letter to the US Congressman Dennis Kucinich in response to a letter sent to the Secretary-General regarding the situation in Gaza.

for B. Lynn Pascoc
14 January 2009

[Signature]

28-14909/29-00501

15 January 2009

Dear Representative Kucinich,

I thank you for your letter dated 29 December 2008, in which you expressed your concern regarding the developments in Gaza and southern Israel.

I am deeply alarmed by the unacceptable escalation of violence. I am also extremely concerned about the price paid by civilian populations. Conditions for the 1.5 million people in Gaza are catastrophic. I have expressed my condemnation of excessive use of force by Israel, and I have repeated my condemnation of the ongoing rocket and mortar attacks by Hamas and other Palestinian militants.

I am profoundly troubled that the Security Council's call for an immediate end to all violence and all military activities has not been heeded, and that the situation has escalated. Let me reiterate my belief that there must be an immediate ceasefire that is fully respected by all parties. This must create conditions on the ground that ensure that crossings into Gaza will be reopened; that rocket attacks and weapons smuggling will end; that political dialogue, and only political dialogue, will be pursued to reunite Gaza with the West Bank; and that the root cause of this suffering, the absence of Israeli-Palestinian peace, is ended.

The Honourable Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress
Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C.

I wish to assure you of my intention to continue my diplomatic work in support of the search for peace. I continue to urge international and regional leaders to do more to bring to an end the bloodshed and suffering. Please rest assured that I will not spare any effort to end this crisis. Ultimately, our goal remains a just and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Yours sincerely,

BAN Ki-moon

DENNIS J. KUCINICH

10TH DISTRICT, OHIO

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
www.kucinich.house.gov

CHAIRMAN,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC POLICY

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

December 29, 2008

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28-14909

The Honorable Ban ki-Moon
Secretary General
United Nations
First Avenue at 46th Street
New York, New York 10017

Dear Secretary General:

I write to you today with grave concern regarding the current Israeli airstrikes in Gaza as well as reports of an imminent ground attack. I call on the United Nations to establish an independent inquiry of Israel's war against Gaza.

I believe the attacks on civilians represent collective punishment, which is a violation of Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention¹. The perpetrators of attacks against Israel must also be brought to justice; however Israel cannot create a war against an entire people in order to attempt to bring to justice the few who are responsible. The Israeli leaders know better. The world community, which has been very supportive of Israel's right to security and its right to survive, also has a right to expect Israel to conduct itself in adherence to the very laws which support the survival of Israel and every other nation.

As you know, according to published news reports, since the commencement of aerial strikes over 300 Palestinians have been killed and approximately 1,400 have been wounded. The dead include 20 children under the age of 16--nearly half of them killed while on a school bus--and 9 women. The attack aggravated a humanitarian crisis wrought by the Israeli-imposed blockade of food, fuel, and medical supplies.

Israel is leveling Gaza to strike at Hamas, just as they pulverized south Lebanon to strike at Hezbollah. Yet in both cases civilian populations were attacked, countless innocents killed or injured, infrastructure targeted and destroyed, and civil law enforcement negated. All this was, and is, disproportionate, indiscriminate mass violence in violation of international law. Israel is not exempt from international law and must be held accountable. I urge you to establish an independent inquiry immediately.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Kucinich

Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress

¹ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (1950). *Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War*. Retrieved December 29, 2008 from <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/92.htm>.



Congressman

Dennis J. Kucinich

Ohio's 10th Congressional District

<http://kucinich.house.gov>

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Date: 12.29.08

To: Secretary-General

Phone: _____
Fax: 212.963.1115

From: ☒ Congressman Dennis J. Kucinich
☐ Jaron Bourke
☐ Catherine Veith
☐ Amy Vossbrinck
☐ Tom Mulloy
☐ Diala Jadallah
☐ Vic Edgerton
☐ Nathan White
☐ Other: _____

Message: _____

For the immediate attention of
Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon.

Thank you.

1 Pages to Follow

The contents of this facsimile are personal and confidential. Please forward to the addressee immediately. If there are any problems with this transmission, please notify (202) 225-5871.



Correspondence Log # 28-14909

Logged by: Agustin Orengo

From	Dennis Kucinich Congressman Congress of the United States, Washington D.C. USA	In / Out	Incoming
		Log status	Logged
Through		Incoming Ref#	n/a
To	SG	Outgoing Ref#	n/a
cc		Case #	US; Middle East Q. (14/01/09) *

Correspondence Subject	Writes with concern regarding the current Israeli airstrikes in Gaza. He calls on the UN to establish an independent inquiry of Israel's war against Gaza. Attacks on civilians represent collective punishment, which is a violation of Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.		
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Date of Correspondence	29-Dec-2008	Reply by	Reply date not specified
Date received	29-Dec-2008	Reply status	n/a

Distribution	Robert Orr/NY/UNO; cc: B. Lynn Pascoe/NY/UNO; Nicholas Haysom/NY/UNO
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Remarks	original rec'd 01/06 'central' (sv) * attached with #29-00501
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Editors	Document author Agustin Orengo
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Document

File attachments	 28-14909_29-Dec-2008_16h21min.pdf
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Audit Trail

Entered by	Agustin Orengo on 29/12/2008 04:14 PM
Edited last by	Michelle Rakotojaona on 11/02/2009 11:16 AM

29/12/2008 at 4:23:32 PM - Track note by Maria Zaroui: Copy received, to NH

29/12/2008 at 4:39:22 PM - Track note by Maria Zaroui: Sent as attachment in Update Note of 29 January

29/12/2008 at 4:55:54 PM - Track note by Aida Njanja Fassu: Received by RO

30/12/2008 at 5:08:50 PM - Track note by Silva Armani: to NH to sign small note

30/12/2008 at 6:03:38 PM - Track note by Silva Armani: NH to RO, cc Chron

31/12/2008 at 12:01:40 PM - Track note by Aida Njanja Fassu: RO received

11/02/2009 at 11:16:45 AM - Track note by Aida Njanja Fassu: Please see log# 29-01381 for follow-up and action

Action taken