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EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Mr. Secretary-General,

25 July 2014

As we enter the third week of the violent Israeli assault against the Palestinian people in both Gaza and the West Bank and the continued rocket fire from Gaza over Israel, I would like to applaud your tireless personal efforts in trying to obtain a cease-fire. Your shuttle diplomacy between the Parties and key regional Member States puts the United Nations in the forefront of international efforts to find a way out of this crisis. You have the full support of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for your efforts, and for the tireless efforts of Mr. Robert Serry, the UN's Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process.

I write on behalf of the Bureau of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, which has authorised me to strongly support the request made by President Abbas, in his letter written to you on 13 July, 2014, for the United Nations to take all of the effective measures required to establish a protection system for Palestine. Such a protection system must ensure the protection of the Palestinian people from future Israeli warfare, and continued violations of international humanitarian and human rights law.

While it is the primary responsibility of the Occupying Power under the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War to protect the civilian population under its occupation, it is clear from the events unfolding in real time that Israel, a signatory to the Convention, is in fact launching daily assaults on the very population it is obliged to protect.

.../

His Excellency
Mr. Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations

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The United Nations has a long history of providing protection for civilians. Protection is defined by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee as encompassing activities aimed at obtaining full respect for the rights of all individuals in accordance with international law – international humanitarian, human rights, and refugee law – regardless of their age, gender, social ethnic, national, religious, or other background. Protection of civilians in armed conflict connotes a situation where all parties to the conflict are responsible for ensuring that the civilian population is respected and protected. In your 2009 Report on the Protection of Civilians, you highlighted five challenges, specifically: (1) Enhancing compliance of parties to the conflict with their obligations under international law, in particular the conduct of hostilities; (2) Engagement with non-State armed groups; (3) Protecting civilians through UN peacekeeping and other relevant missions; (4) Humanitarian access; and (5) Enhancing accountability for violations. All these challenges present themselves in the current context.

While recognising that such efforts have not always been successful, both the UN and individual or groups of Member States have provided a measure of protection to civilians from aggressors, mandated by the UN Security Council. This has been accomplished through peace-keeping and other field operations, such as in East Timor or Kosovo, by Multinational Forces, as was done in Lebanon from 1982-84, or through innovative mechanisms such as the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH), which was implemented under the framework of Operative Paragraph 3 of Security Council Resolution 904, which called for

"...measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians throughout the occupied territory, including, inter alia, a temporary international or foreign presence..."

It is the Bureau's hope that the Secretariat will provide due consideration to the important question raised in President Abbas's letter and provide some options to meet the demonstrated need for the Protection of Palestinian Civilians for the foreseeable future.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Abdou Salam Diallo
Chairman
Committee on the Exercise
of the Inalienable Rights
of the Palestinian People



Fw: ATTACHMENT CORRECTED: Letter to the UN Secretary-General

SGCentral to: Maria Chacon

25/07/2014 06:18 PM

Sent by: Hazel Foster

----- Forwarded by Hazel Foster/NY/UNO on 25/07/2014 06:17 PM -----

From: Ruth Valenzuela/NY/UNO
To: SGCentral/NY/UNO@UNHQ,
Cc: Qais Sultan/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Ana Maria Solari/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Roselyn Akombe/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Lourdes Selaya/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Wolfgang Grieger/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Steven Siqueira/NY/UNO@UNHQ
Date: 25/07/2014 06:14 PM
Subject: ATTACHMENT CORRECTED: Letter to the UN Secretary-General

Apologies. Please find the correct attachment.
Please disregard the previous attachment.

Thank you.



Chairman letter to SG.pdf

----- Forwarded by Ruth Valenzuela/NY/UNO on 25/07/2014 06:10 PM -----

From: Ruth Valenzuela/NY/UNO
To: SGCentral/NY/UNO@UNHQ,
Cc: Roselyn Akombe/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Lourdes Selaya/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Qais Sultan/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Ana Maria Solari/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Wolfgang Grieger/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Steven Siqueira/NY/UNO@UNHQ
Date: 25/07/2014 05:58 PM
Subject: Letter to the UN Secretary-General

Dear colleagues,

Please find attached a letter from H.E. Mr. Abdou Salam Diallo, Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

It would be appreciated if it could be forwarded to:

**His Excellency
Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations.**

Kindly confirm receipt of this e-mail.

Thank you and kind regards,

Ruth Valenzuela
Division for Palestinian Rights
Department of Political Affairs
DC2-2215B
Two UN Plaza (44th St. between 1st/2nd Aves)
New York, NY 10017 USA

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