

“Should we be incapable of finding a way for honest cooperation and honest arrangement with the Arabs, then we have learnt absolutely nothing from our two-thousand years of suffering....”.

(letter from Albert Einstein to Chaim Weizman dated 25 November 1929)

Gaza
Citizen Voices from 26 Countries in Europe

The Israeli Defence Force responded to signs of peace with acts of war. It attacked a flotilla of boats in international waters that carried people and humanitarian goods. It destroyed precious lives. Brutality has not stopped there. Ordinary Palestinians awaiting much needed help have been victimized yet again.

We, as individuals who are not members of activist peace organizations but simply cherish the ideals of peace and justice, are deeply disturbed by what the Israeli government and its military have done and by the disinformation it and its supporters have spread in trying to legitimize acts of crime.

It is for these reasons that we are giving our names. By doing so we join, with anguish and outrage, the many fellow citizens around the world who feel as we do. We salute those Israelis who courageously object to the dangerous policies of their government and who condemn the recent attacks against the flotilla of peace for Gaza. We appeal to the Israeli Government to accept the ideals of peace and dialogue and to respect the dignity of others. There is no other way to find a solution in the conflict with Palestine and to end the suffering and the loss of life in Palestine and in Israel.

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When year after year promises are not fulfilled, when instead demographic cleansing is the order of the day, when symptoms become the pretence for force and causes are ignored, when military action replaces peaceful dialogue, when honesty becomes travesty, there comes a time when the outcry of ordinary citizens no longer remains a whisper but becomes a crescendo. This time has come.

Hans von Sponeck
Former United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq
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