



Press Release
01/06/2010
Fife Arabic Society

The tragic loss of life of the civilian volunteers aboard the peace flotilla trying to deliver aid to the besieged people of Gaza is just another example of the extreme measures a renegade state is inflicting upon the long suffering Palestinian people.

As if taking over the Palestinian home land in 1948 and turning most of them into refugees was not enough, the following 62 years have seen the Israeli government destroy any chance of peace with the Palestinians and blocking any possibility of many of them returning to their country despite all international declarations.

As if the siege of Gaza for the last 3 years was not enough, the Gazans were subjected to a horrific attack on Boxing Day 2008, causing massive deaths and destructions. The vast majority was civilians with many children. The use of forbidden weapons including white phosphorous was widely reported. The damage to homes, schools and places of worship was very extensive. The international community was horrified, however Israel as usual shrugged off any criticism and continued its strangulation of the biggest prison in the world, prompting some to call Gaza a concentration camp. Despite the damning UN's **Goldstein's report** which implicated Israel in serious breaches of International law, nothing was done to lift the siege.

When decent human beings from the four corners of the world were so incensed by the gross injustice of the whole situation and tried to break the siege to bring desperately needed supplies; Israel was not happy. The brutal act of attacking the rescue humanitarian volunteers onboard flotilla is totally unprecedented by any state in modern

history. Israel again put itself above all the laws and conventions of the civilized world and continued its strangulation of Gaza.

We ask our UK/Scottish governments:

To stand firm and lead the international effort to end the morally repugnant siege of Gaza.

To support the UN's call for an independent enquiry into the attacks on the Gaza aid boats.

To hold Israel accountable for its crimes; Israel should not behave with complete disregard to agreed civilized international laws and conventions.

It is time for our governments to act before the actions of those in power in the state of Israel drags the whole world into the abyss.

Our governments need to act, and the time is now.

Adnan Miyasar
On behalf of Fife Arabic Society