



SG/Rep/2009/Troika1

7 February 2009

REPORT OF THE APA SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE VISIT BY APA TROIKA TO COUNTRIES NEIGHBORING PALESTINE TO EXPLORE WAYS AND MEANS OF CHANNELING HUMANITARIAN AIDS TO THE PEOPLE IN GAZA

- 1- The APA Plenary decided by Resolution APA/Res/2008/08, dated 29 November 2008, (Paragraph 12) to dispatch an APA Troika, including former, current, and future presidents of the APA Plenary (parliament speakers from the Islamic Republic of Iran, Indonesia, and Syria) to neighboring countries of Palestine to explore with their political and parliamentary leaders ways of sending immediate humanitarian aid to people of Gaza. This report is pursuant to the request in Paragraph 13 of the Resolution from the Secretary-General to report, every two months since adoption of the Resolution, to Member Parliaments on implementation of the Resolution.
- 2- Early in December 2008, the Secretary-General began communication with the APA President, H.E. Agung Laksono on Troika visit to the region. Under direction of the APA, the Secretary-General communicated with the Speakers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syrian Arab Republic, in an attempt to coordinate the timing of the visit, the agenda for each visit in the Capitals and the terms of reference for the Troika visit.
- 3- In implementation of Paragraph 11 of the Resolution, and upon suggestion by the Secretary-General a “Gaza Fund” was established in Jakarta, under the control of the APA President to collect financial contributions from Member Parliaments to provide humanitarian aids for the people in Gaza. The Secretary-General transmitted the particulars of the “Gaza Fund” to all Member Parliaments previously and reproduces it here again for ease of reference:



Gaza Fund

Bank account number: 102-00-0504254-1

Account holder: H.R. Agung Laksono (President of APA)

Bank's name and address:

Bank Mandiri KCP Jakarta DPR-RI 10201

Jl. Jenderal Gatot Subroto, Senayan, Jakarta Pusat 10270, INDONESIA

Bank's SWIFT code: B E I I I D J A

- 4- The APA President decided to plan the Troika visit some time towards the end of January 2009 to allow for the Gaza Fund to accumulate some contributions. However, Israeli forces began bombarding Gaza in early January 2009, killing innocent civilians including women and children. Under direction of the APA President, the Secretary-General coordinated with other two members of Troika to visit the region as soon as possible in order to influence the situation and send a strong message on behalf of the peoples in Asia that the aerial bombardments of Gaza must stop, the siege lifted, humanitarian aides allowed to enter Gaza and the injured attended to.
- 5- Subsequent coordination between the APA President, the Secretary-General and other two members of APA Troika led to a two-day visit by the troika to Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan on 8-9 January 2009. APA President, Honorable, Agung Laksono, the Speaker of House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia and the Spokesperson of the APA Troika delegation; Honorable, Mr. Mahmoud al-Abrash, Speaker of the People's Assembly of the Syrian Arab Republic and the next President of APA and Honorable, Dr. Ali Larijani, the Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the former President of APA, headed their respective delegations, and made up the Troika delegation. A delegation from the APA Secretariat headed by the Secretary-General accompanied and served the Troika in the three capitals. They held meetings in each capital visited and also arranged for a major press conference in which the views of the APA on the atrocities committed against Palestinians in Gaza were highlighted in accordance with Resolution APA/Res/2008/08.
- 6- The first session of APA Troika was held at the Syrian People's Assembly in Damascus on the morning of Thursday, January 8. During the meeting, heads of participating delegations explained their positions and proposals on how to end Zionist regime's military invasion and inhuman bombardment of Gaza Strip and send immediate aid to the besieged Palestinians. After some consultations, the APA Troika issued a joint statement. (Annex I)
- 7- The APA Troika Statement In Damascus vehemently condemned Zionist regime's bombardments of Gaza and called for urgent steps to be taken as follows:



- ❖ Immediate cessation of land, air, and sea strikes by the Zionist regime against Gaza and establishment of cease fire;
 - ❖ Complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza to their positions before escalation of the conflict;
 - ❖ Complete removal of siege of Gaza and reopening of all crossings as well as Gaza port and airport;
 - ❖ Immediate supply of humanitarian aids, especially food, fuel and medicines and transfer of the wounded to neighboring countries for treatment;
 - ❖ Payment of compensation to Palestinian people who have suffered losses as a result of Israeli invasion, reconstruction of all damaged areas, and guarantees from member countries to contribute to the process both in cash and kind;
 - ❖ Establishment of a fact-finding commission to see into various aspects of Zionists' crimes to pave the way for international trial of the Zionists responsible for war crimes;
 - ❖ Addressing a letter to H.E. Mr. Hosni Mubarak, the President of Egypt about the need to re-open urgently the Rafah crossing. The letter was signed by the three members of APA Troika and submitted to Egyptian Embassy in Damascus to be forwarded to its high destination. (Annex II)
 - ❖ Addressing letters to United Nations Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, H.E. Mr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, Speaker of the European Parliament, Honorable, Mr Hans-Gert Pottering and other governmental and international figures calling on them to do their utmost in support of the people of Gaza. (Annex III)
 - ❖ Calling upon those Asian parliaments which have established friendship group with Israeli parliament to sever relations with the Zionist regime;
 - ❖ Paving the way for a meeting of speakers of Asian parliaments and other national parliaments in the near future to be hosted by the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran in Tehran.
- 8- Once in Syria, the APA Troika held meetings with H.E. Mr. Bashar al-Assad, the President of Syria; Mr. Ramadan Shalah, the Secretary-General of the Islamic Jihad Organization, Mr. Khaled Mashal, the Head of Hamas Political Bureau), and Mr. Ahmed Jibril, the Secretary-General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.



- 9- On the same day, the APA Troika travelled to Lebanon and met with Honorable, Mr. Nabih Berri, the Speaker of the Lebanese parliament, which is also a member of APA. In that meeting the text of letters addressed to a number of international organizations, was signed by APA Troika plus the Speaker of the Parliament of Lebanon and three copies were sent to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Speaker of the European Parliament and the President of Inter-Parliamentary Union.
- 10- The APA Troika also met and conferred with Lebanese President H.E. Mr. Michel Suleiman, the President of Lebanon; H.E. Mr. Fouad Siniora, the Prime Minister of Lebanon; and Mr. Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the Secretary-General of the Lebanese Hezbollah.
- 11- The APA Troika travelled to Jordan the next day on Friday 9 January 2009, and held meeting with Honorable, Mr. Abdul Hadi Majali, the Speaker of Jordanian Lower House, which is a member of APA, and a group of its deputies. In that meeting, two copies of the letter written to international organizations were signed by the four parliament speakers attending the meeting and were addressed to Speakers of Latin America Parliamentary Union and Pan-African Parliamentary Union.
- 12- The APA Troika had also planned to visit Egypt. However, arrangements could not be finalized for this visit to take place.
- 13- The APA Secretary-General is grateful to have had the opportunity to make arrangements for the APA Troika to visit the countries neighboring Palestine, particularly at a time when innocent civilians including women and children were subjected to unbridled use of force by the Zionist regime. The Secretary-General underscores the importance of the leadership exercised by the APA Troika,



particularly by President Loksano to draw international pressure to bear on Israel to heed to the will of international community and agree to cease fire.

- 14- The Secretary-General calls on Member Parliaments to contribute generously to the APA "Gaza Fund" to provide humanitarian aides to the people in Gaza whose homes, hospitals, schools and all its infrastructures are destroyed.

END



**Statement of the Troika of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly
on the barbaric Military attacks of the Zionist Regime on the Gaza Strip**

Damascus, 8 January 2009

The speakers of the parliaments of three Asian countries: Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic, on behalf of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly which consists of 39 Asian parliaments and represents more than 4 billion population of the world, express their deep concern about the recent extensive attacks by the Zionist regime against the innocent Palestinian nation and the massacre of hundreds of people and consider them as a crime against humanity and a threat against peace and security.

The people of Palestine are living for more than sixty years under the cruelest regime in the history which gives no value to the human dignity and the binding international law. These oppressed people are entangled by this criminal regime and have extended their hands towards us. Today they are suffering the hardest pain to preserve their dignity and their country which is under the occupation of this occupying power.

The occupying power in violation of the law of war including the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 1949, massacred hundreds of civilians and targeted towns with indiscriminate bombardment and shelling. These atrocities in Gaza during recent days have crossed all known boundaries of human rights, human dignity and the respect for international law. The policies of collective punishment, massive use of force and blockade of humanitarian aids to the besieged people of Gaza are cruel and a shame to humanity as a whole.

The present situation in Gaza, the inhuman and criminal attack by the Zionist regime and closure of all the crossings have rendered it

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impossible to send humanitarian assistance to the oppressed people in the Gaza Strip. Under such circumstances as more than 3 thousands people are injured and the destruction of the infrastructures, hospitals, schools and mosques and lack of facilities to help injured, it is necessary that the situation in Gaza to return to normal. Therefore, the Troika calls upon all the international organizations, particularly the human rights organs as well as all the national parliaments, in particular IPU, PUIC and Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union to act according to their conscious responsibilities and try seriously to bring back Gaza to its normal situation for assisting the oppressed people in Gaza.

There is an urgent need to stimulate, unify and streamline efforts in organizing a relief program aimed at channeling urgent humanitarian relief to the besieged Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

The Asian Parliamentary Assembly, in its resolution APA/Res/2008/08 adopted on 29 November 2008 decided to dispatch the APA troika delegation to the countries in the Middle East region, in particular neighboring countries to the Palestine, to consult with the political and parliamentary leaders about the ways and means of channeling humanitarian aids to the people in Gaza. To follow the implementation of this resolution, the troika of APA met in Damascus on 8 January 2009.

The APA troika while strongly condemning Zionist regime acts called for the following actions to be taken as soon as possible.

- 1- Immediate cessation of land, air and sea attacks by the Zionist regime against the residents of Gaza and establishment of cease fire;
- 2- Withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and their return to the situation before the hostilities;
- 3- Lifting totally the siege of Gaza and reopening of all crossings and Gaza harbor and airport;

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- 4- Providing expeditiously humanitarian aids, in particular food, fuel and medicine and transferring the injured to neighboring countries for treatment;
- 5- Paying compensations to the Palestinian people as a result of Israeli military aggression and reconstruction of the damaged areas and ensuring the financial and in kind help from the member countries;
- 6- Establishment of a fact finding committee to investigate and register different dimensions of the aggression and crimes committed by the Zionist regime and prepare the grounds for an international tribunal for bringing to justice the perpetrators of war crimes;
- 7- The Troika decides to send a letter to H.E. Husni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt on the urgency of opening Rafah crossing with Gaza;
- 8- It also decides to send letters to H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations, Honorable Mr. Theo-Ben Gurirab President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Honorable Mr. Hans Gert Pottering, President of the European Parliament and other public and international figures requesting them to do their utmost in support of the oppressed people of Gaza;
- 9- Calls upon the Asian Parliaments which have friendship relations group with Israel's Knesset to cut off such relations;
- 10- Welcomes the expression of readiness by the Islamic Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host a meeting of the Speakers of the Asian and other national Parliaments in the near future and requests the Secretary General of APA to get in touch with member Parliaments and make necessary preparations for the meeting.

To follow the implementation of the decisions of this meeting, the APA Troika will contact and visit some influential and effective countries

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to look into the ways and means of ending the crisis and arrange for reconstruction of Gaza.

The President of APA is responsible for implementation of the decisions of this meeting and the Secretary General of APA will extend all assistance for the realization of the goals in this statement.

Issued in Damascus, 8 January 2009

Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)



9 January 2009

In the name of God the Comptonate, the Merciful

Honorable Mrs. Getrude Mongela
President of the Pan-African Parliament
Fax No. +270115455136

Excellency,

We the Speakers of the three Asian countries: Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran and Syrian Arab Republic (the Troika of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly) met in Damascus on 8 January 2009 to discuss the ways and means of putting an end to the brutal military attacks of the Zionist Regime against the people in Gaza. After our meeting in Damascus, we came to the Kingdom of Jordan and now we write this letter to you on behalf of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to draw Your Excellency's attention to the horrifying current situation in Gaza strip in Palestine.

Massive land and air attacks, border closure, strict blockade, and prevention of entrance of food and medicines in the Palestinian areas, in particular Gaza strip, has brought about a humanitarian disaster and the lives of one and half million population Gaza are threatened.

The Zionist regime with the help of certain world powers has violated the basic human rights and international conventions and agreements and committed the worst violent and abhorrent crimes in the sacred land of monolithic religions. These days we are witnessing the continuations of daily killing of the people of Palestine, in particular, in Gaza strip, where only the occupiers and their international supporters bear the responsibility for any disastrous subsequences. Under such circumstances, unfortunately, we see that the so-called supporters of human rights and democracy are taking no steps in preventing these racist acts of the Zionist Regime.

We, on behalf of the Asian Parliamentary Union, while strongly condemning these crimes and warn against any humanitarian disaster in Gaza strip, would like to request you to take all necessary steps in line with your legal and humanitarian duties for the immediate cessation of land, air and sea attacks by the Zionist regime against

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the residents of Gaza and establishment of cease fire. We also call for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and lifting totally the siege of Gaza and reopening of all crossings and Gaza harbor and airport. We also call for an expeditious provision of humanitarian aids, in particular food, fuel and medicine and transferring the injured persons to neighboring countries for treatment. We would further call for the establishment of a fact finding committee to investigate and register different dimensions of the aggression and crimes committed by the Zionist regime and prepare the grounds for an international tribunal for bringing to justice the perpetrators of war crimes.

We are sure that you, as an effective international figure, will take the necessary steps in this regard.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Abdulhadi Majali,
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Kingdom of Jordan

H. R. Agung Laksono
Speaker of the House of Representative, Republic of Indonesia,
President of APA

Dr. Ali Larijani
Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly,
Islamic Republic of Iran
Former President of APA

Dr. Mahmoud Al Abrache
Speaker of the People's Assembly, Syrian Arab Republic,
Next President of APA

Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)



8 January 2009

In the name of God the Compationate, the Merciful

Honorable Mr. Hans Gert Pottering
President of the European Parliament

Excellency,

We the Speakers of the three Asian countries: Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran and Syrian Arab Republic (the Troika of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly) met in Damascus on 8 January 2009 to discuss the ways and means of putting an end to the brutal military attacks of the Zionist Regime against the people in Gaza. After our meeting in Damascus, we came to Lebanon and now we write this letter to you on behalf of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to draw Your Excellency's attention to the horrifying current situation in Gaza strip in Palestine.

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Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Nabih Berri,
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Republic of Lebanon

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H. R. Agung Laksono
Speaker of the House of Representative, Republic of Indonesia,
President of APA

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Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)



8 January 2009

In the name of God the Comptonate, the Merciful

Honorable Mr. Theo-Ben Gurirab
President of the Inter Parliamentary Union

Excellency,

We the Speakers of the three Asian countries: Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran and Syrian Arab Republic (the Troika of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly) met in Damascus on 8 January 2009 to discuss the ways and means of putting an end to the brutal military attacks of the Zionist Regime against the people in Gaza. After our meeting in Damascus, we came to Lebanon and now we write this letter to you on behalf of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to draw Your Excellency's attention to the horrifying current situation in Gaza strip in Palestine.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives
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Speaker of the House of Representative, Republic of Indonesia,
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Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly,
Islamic Republic of Iran
Former President of APA

Dr. Mahmoud Al Abrache
Speaker of the People's Assembly, Syrian Arab Republic,
Next President of APA

Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)



8 January 2009

In the name of God the Comptonate, the Merciful

H. E. Mr. Ban Ki Moon
Secretary General of the United Nations

Excellency,

We the Speakers of the three Asian countries: Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran and Syrian Arab Republic (the Troika of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly) met in Damascus on 8 January 2009 to discuss the ways and means of putting an end to the brutal military attacks of the Zionist Regime against the people in Gaza. After our meeting in Damascus, we came to Lebanon and now we write this letter to you on behalf of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to draw Your Excellency's attention to the horrifying current situation in Gaza strip in Palestine.

Massive land and air attacks, border closure, strict blockade, and prevention of entrance of food and medicines in the Palestinian areas, in particular Gaza strip, has brought about a humanitarian disaster and the lives of one and half million population Gaza are threatened.

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We, on behalf of the Asian Parliamentary Union, while strongly condemning these crimes and warn against any humanitarian disaster in Gaza strip, would like to request you to take all necessary steps in line with your legal and humanitarian duties for the immediate cessation of land, air and sea attacks by the Zionist regime against the residents of Gaza and establishment of cease fire. We also call for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and lifting totally the siege of Gaza and reopening of all

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We are sure that you, as an effective international figure, will take the necessary steps in this regard.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Nabih Berri,
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Republic of Lebanon

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Speaker of the House of Representative, Republic of Indonesia
President of APA

Dr. Ali Larijani
Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly,
Islamic Republic of Iran
Former President of APA

Dr. Mahmoud Al Abrache
Speaker of the People's Assembly, Syrian Arab Republic,
Next President of APA



8 January 2009

In the name of God the Comptonate, the Merciful

**His Excellency President Husni Mubarak
Arab Republic of Egypt**

Excellency,

The Asian Parliamentary Assembly, in its resolution on 29 November 2008 decided to dispatch the APA troika delegation to the countries in the Middle East region, in particular neighboring countries to the Palestine, to consult with the political and parliamentary leaders to discuss the ways and means of channeling humanitarian aids to the people in Gaza. To follow the implementation of this resolution, the troika of APA met in on 8 January 2009 decided to deliver this letter of on behalf of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly on the urgent humanitarian need for the people in Gaza.

On that basis we would like to draw Your Excellency's attention to the current situation in Gaza strip in Palestine. Massive land and air attacks, border closure, strict blockade, and prevention of entrance of food and medicines in the Palestinian areas, in particular Gaza strip, has brought about a humanitarian disaster and the lives of one and half million population Gaza are threatened.

The Troika of the APA strongly condemns the military aggression, including air and land strikes, by the occupying Regime of Palestine on the Gaza Strip, with the death toll exceeding 600 and the injury of thousands of civilians, including women and children, and destruction of Palestinian property and infrastructure stresses on the urgent need to address this grave humanitarian situation through providing financial, medical, food and other necessary goods to the people in Gaza. This urgent appeal is the most pressing, life-saving humanitarian assistance that should be made without delay. For this reason there is need to open immediately all the crossings to Gaza including the Rafah.

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We would like, here, to express our sincere appreciations, in advance, for the support you be extended to the Palestinian people, in particular the people living in under very hard circumstances in Gaza.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

H. R. Agung Laksono
Speaker of the House of Representative, Republic of Indonesia,
President of APA

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Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly,
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Former President of APA

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