

Lebanon Supports Gaza

The follow-up committee of civil society organizations,(which includes several Lebanese and Palestinian organizations) present its full gratitude to all the media that participated in telethon day (special broadcast raising funds for aid to Gaza Strip), broadcasted by Tele Liban last Sunday 24 of January. During this campaign, in partnership with the Lebanese civil society and Télé Liban, Lebanon has shown a real national unity about Gaza.

Since the beginning of the Israeli offensive on Gaza on 28 of last December, the formation of a follow-up committee of civil society organizations in Lebanon, and other movements took place.

A sit-in was held at UN headquarters and a memorandum was addressed to the Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki Moon. We also held two other sit-ins at the headquarters of the European Union and the Arab League and three memoranda were also addressed to the heads of delegations of the EU and the Arab League and the ICRC.

We also established a network with our partners at the international level to invoke the respect of the Fourth Geneva Convention which relates to the protection of civilians during times of war.

The follow-up committee of civil society organizations also calls for the condemnation of Israel and for imposing immediate sanctions against Israel. All judicial committees will meet next Friday to bring a lawsuit against Israel for war crimes perpetrated against the inhabitants of Gaza.

The military invasion of Gaza demonstrates the brutality of Israel and explicitly illustrates its serious violations of human rights.

The follow-up committee denounces the impunity of Israel and the absence of sanctions. All efforts should be brought together in order to prosecute the perpetrators of such crimes. From December 27 till January 18, the Israeli onslaught has killed 1,300 Palestinians, including at least 400 children and 100 women. More than 5,300 Palestinians have been injured and 4,000 houses destroyed. According to Amnesty International, chemical weapons were also used in civilian areas.

We ask the international community to play an honest and just role to execute a durable cease-fire, open the crossing points and lift the siege off Gaza. The basic rights of the Palestinian civilian population must be respected, and among those rights, one of the largest and most urgent is the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

Finally, the follow-up committee is taking several actions to help the Palestinian population.

We are preparing to send a second aircraft with the governmental follow-up committee to Arich in Egypt to transfer the medicines and evacuate the wounded. The syndicate of Lebanese hospitals (which includes 150 hospitals) has agreed to treat 10 Palestinians wounded by hospital for free. The committee also plans to carry bags of blood plasma, medical equipment and send doctors to Gaza. We also opened a bank account to receive financial aid, as we also opened two storehouses to collect clothes and medicines.

To support our work, you can send your donations:

- Via the Amel Association, account number 933404-62, Swift Code: FSABLBBX, Fransabank
 - Via the Monitoring Committee of Organizations of the Lebanese civil society
- Account number 013 100 190 0020 188 01 5 (U.S. \$)
Account number 013 100 190 0020 188 01 3 (L.L)
Credit Libanais - Mazraa Branch SWIFT Code: CLIBLBBX

Dr. Kamel Mohanna
General Coordinator of The follow-up committee of civil society organizations