



Municipality of Tehran

In the Name of the Most High

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

Your Excellency!

As you are well aware, today cities and citizens in West Asia and the Middle East region, especially in Palestine, Iraq and Syria are experiencing a very critical and awful situation. The Gaza Strip for umpteenth time has become targets of brutal and inhuman attacks by the usurper Zionist regime.

These days, defenseless and fasting Palestinian Muslims are being killed, wounded and rendered homeless under the most ruthless air and ground aggressions and violations of the Zionists. Vulnerable urban groups, including children, women, the elderly and the sick are under the most atrocious forms of organized crimes by the usurper regime of Israel. Crimes and catastrophes that are taking place contrary to all international conventions and treaties and with the support and silence of the big but irresponsible world powers and before their watching eyes.

Mr. Secretary-General!

In circumstances under which many international institutions and organizations and influential powers have closed their eyes to these crimes or do not take any effective measure to save regional citizens from this dilemma, it is feared that with instigation or support of certain irresponsible powers involved, the situation would become more chaotic and critical, its scope and dimensions become broader and civil life and cultural heritage and a rich and unique civilization in this region would be exposed to more serious harms.

As a local official and executive who, within the framework of municipal diplomacy and concerned about the challenges facing cities and citizens, has commitments, responsibilities and regional and international duties, I understand from the bottom of my heart the deplorable situation and countless difficulties facing the regional people.



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Therefore, as a citizen and like all the conscious, committed and responsible citizens and also from my legal and administrative position as Vice-President of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Organization and President of West Asia and the Middle East region of the Organization (UCLG-MEWA), which is trying to monitor and counter challenges facing citizens and promote viability and sustainability of cities; and also as the founder of Asian Mayors Forum (AMF); I urge Your Excellency and all the authorities of responsible and influential organizations, institutions and international forums as well as all the sympathetic and responsible national and local leaders of the region and the world not to remain silent vis-à-vis this critical situation. Indifference could increase the destructive consequences of the event and make it uncontrollable.

I urge all those people to enter the scene responsibly and actively and by developing contacts, dialogue and diplomacy take the control of this devastating machine from the hands of the fanatic and anti-human regime of Israel and rescue the defenseless and innocent people of Palestine and the region from these dreadful conditions through wisdom and prudence.

While condemning the crimes and violations of the illegitimate Israeli regime against the defenseless citizens of Gaza, I would like to announce my readiness to play a more effective individual and global role in defending these oppressed people and alleviate their pains and endless sufferings.

I strongly demand Your Excellency and all political leaders of the world as well as my colleagues in cities of the region and the world and also other influential players and activists to strongly and transparently condemn these crimes. Under this historic juncture we are all expected to play our humanistic and global role and rush to the help of defenseless citizens and cities of Gaza in any possible way.

I pray to Almighty God for your success and honor in the part you play in this historical and critical task and for peace, tranquility and lasting prosperity of all citizens and defenseless and damaged cities of Palestine and the region.

Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf
Mayor of Tehran

UCLG Vice-President and President of UCLG-MEWA
Founder of AMF
President of the Iran's Metropolises Mayors Forum



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CC:

- H.E. Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran
- H.E. Dr. Joan Clos, Undersecretary General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat)
- H.E. Dr. Kadir Topbas, Honorable Mayor of Istanbul, President of the United Cities and Local Governments Organization (UCLG), President of Mayors Union of Turkey
- H.E. Jean-Paul Huchon, President of the Ile-de-France Region and President of the World Association of Metropolis
- H.E. Matsui Kazumi, Honorable Mayor of Hiroshima and President of Mayors for Peace Movement
- Honorable Governor of Bangkok and rotating Chairman of Asian Mayors Forum (AMF)
- Honorable Mayor of Rabat and rotating Chairman of the Organization of Islamic Cities and Capitals (OICC)
- Honorable Chairman and members of the Arab Towns Organization (ATO)
- Honorable Mayors, Governors General, Governors and Presidents of the City Council member in the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the Middle East and West Asia section (UCLG – MEWA)
- Honorable Mayors, Governors General, Governors and Presidents of the City Council member in the Asian Mayors Forum (AMF)
- Honorable Mayors, Governors General, Governors and Presidents of the City Council member in the Organization of Islamic Cities and Capitals (OICC)
- Honorable Mayors, Governors General, Governors and Presidents of the City Council member in the Mayors for Peace Movement
- Honorable Secretary General of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)
- Honorable Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments organization (UCLG)
- Honorable Secretary General of the United Cities and Local Governments of West Asia and the Middle East (UCLG – MEWA)
- Honorable Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cities and Capitals (OICC)
- Honorable Secretary General of Asian Mayors Forum (AMF)
- His Excellency Mr. Gary Louis the Honorable President of UNDP and Coordinator of the United Nations in the Islamic Republic of Iran
- Honorable heads of organizations and agencies affiliated with the United Nations stationed in Tehran

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