

19 July 2006

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert President Emile Lahoud Sheik Hassan Nasrallah President George W. Bush Middle East Quartet UN Secretary General Kofi Annan The European Union Human Rights Council

On behalf of all the International Coordinators and Board Members of Peace Women Across the Globe (formerly 1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005), we join the International Women's Commission for Just and Sustainable Peace, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, other human rights and women's rights organizations, and the wider international community in demanding the end to all military operations and violence in Gaza, Lebanon, and Israel. We condemn the attacks on civilians, targeted decimation of infrastructure, and the destruction of the physical environment by all parties. These actions have killed and injured primarily civilians, and women and children are always most affected by the impacts of armed conflicts. When women and children around the world are in pain, we also feel their pain.

We recognize that the current situation is the direct result of the continuing Israeli occupation of Palestine. This is most severely experienced in Gaza by 1.4 million Palestinian residents who are facing the escalating violence by the Israeli Defense Forces and enduring severe related hardships and in Bethlehem, where the systematic containment of Palestinian residents of the city is occurring at breakneck speed while all eyes are on Gaza and Lebanon.

We appeal to the Israeli government and all parties to the conflict to meet at the negotiating table to begin a serious, multilaterally negotiated, peace process. We also demand the adherence to UN Resolution 1325 that requires women be involved centrally in the formal peace process. Women are central to creating and sustaining peace in communities all around the globe.

Peace Women Across the Globe will continue our effort for strengthening women's peace work. We also urge all individuals, organizations, and governments to stand united in creating genuine human security and a peace with justice for all peoples of the world.

Kamla Bhasin Ruth-Gaby Vermot

Co-Chairs, for Peace Women Across the Globe