

## Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinejad remarks at the Arab Summit in support of Gaza in Doha

**Ahmadinejad says Israeli leaders must be prosecuted for war crimes**

**Tehran Times Political Desk**

DOHA, Qatar, Jan. 16 (Tehran Times)— Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinejad said on Friday that Israeli leaders must be brought before an international tribunal for crimes against Palestinians.

Ahmadinejad made the call in an address to an emergency summit of regional leaders in Doha aimed at discussing the Gaza crisis.

He also appealed for “punishing the criminal leaders of the Zionist entity,” for the 21-day-old Israeli offensive in Gaza which has so far killed more than 1,100 and wounded another 5,000. The Iranian president said over the past 60 years, Palestinian territories have been the core of conflict. “The Zionist entity”, backed by certain Western powers and most notably the United States, wants to destabilize the region, he added. Ahmadinejad described the “Zionist regime” as the “symbol of evil and violation of human rights”. He said the West is an accomplice to Israel’s crimes because the “Zionist entity” could not survive without the financial and military support of the West.



All people of the world have witnessed today that “international law” has been violated by Israel, Ahmadinejad stated.

People expect their governments to take action to end the military campaign in the Palestinian territories, lift the siege on Gaza,

and push for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Palestinian regions, he added.

Ahmadinejad echoed requests by Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and Hamas leader Khaled Mesha’al to sever diplomatic ties with Tel Aviv.

He also called on world leaders to

boycott Israeli products as well as the products of companies linked to Israel. He particularly welcomed the decision by the Venezuelan and Bolivian leaders to cut diplomatic relations with Israel in protest to its attacks on the Gaza strip. Ahmadinejad also lauded a Malaysian decision to boycott Israeli products.

The Iranian president criticized the Security Council for failing to end the violence in the Middle East, saying “We must see reforms in the Security Council.” He also called on Middle Eastern countries to preserve unity



**Palestinians pray on the street in front of members of Israeli police forces, after they were denied entry to the Al Aqsa Mosque for security reasons, near east Jerusalem's Old City, Friday Jan. 16, 2009. (AP Photo/Oded Balilty)**

in the face of Israeli efforts to destabilize the region. The latest war on the Middle East proves that Israel is taking advantage of the division in the Arab world, he stated. “If the Arab world remained unified...no country would have justified its silence on what is going on in Gaza,” said the president.

He also welcomed an initiative by Qatar’s emir to establish a monetary fund to help the victims of war on Gaza. Also present at the summit was Syrian President Bashar al-Assad who also called on all Arab countries with diplomatic ties to Israel to “cut all direct and indirect ties with Israel, and shut down its embassies.” Assad said his country had halted unofficial peace talks with Israel indefinitely, and that he considered the Arab peace initiative dead.

Egypt and Jordan are the only Arab countries who have signed peace treaties with Israel and have Israeli embassies. Mauritania also has diplomatic ties to Israel, while Qatar is the only Persian Gulf country with commercial ties with the Tel Aviv regime.

“Resistance has become the only path to peace, which comes through returning rights from an enemy that only understands the language of force,” AFP quoted Assad as saying. He added that the summit in Doha came in response to the demands of the Arab public to act in the face of Israel’s attacks on Gaza. Qatar pressed ahead with the summit



despite the absence of Palestinian Authority chief Mahmud Abbas and without the endorsement of Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Addressing the summit earlier, Hamas leader Khaled Mesha’al vowed that the Palestinian resistance movement would not accept Israel’s conditions for a ceasefire. “I assure you, despite all the destruction in Gaza, we will not accept Israel’s conditions for a ceasefire...We tell our loved ones in Gaza, the aggression will soon crash on the rock of your steadfastness,” AFP quoted Mesha’al as saying.

“Our demands are that the aggression stops, the enemy retreats completely from Gaza, that the blockade is lifted without ever returning to it, and that the border crossing at Rafah (on the Egyptian border) is opened,” Mesha’al said, adding that only Egyptian and Palestinian forces are to supervise the border.

The official *Qatar News Agency* said that the leaders of Algeria, Comoros, Lebanon, Mauritania, Sudan and Syria were attending the summit while Djibouti, Iraq and Libya had sent senior officials. Senegal’s President Abdoulaye Wade, whose country currently presides over the 57-member *Organization of the Islamic Conference* (OIC), also arrived in Doha for the summit.

Iran and Turkey were the non-Arab states taking parting the meeting. Ankara sent an aide to Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan to Doha. “This meeting is the fruit of Qatari, Arab, Syrian and Islamic determination ... in defiance of all the pressures exercised to prevent it,” said Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallam in Doha

## OIC president praises Iran's stance on Gaza

### Tehran Times Political Desk

TEHRAN, Iran, Jan. 16 (Tehran Times)—The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Chairman Abdoulaye Wade on Thursday thanked Iran for its principled stand on the Gaza crisis and other regional and international issues.

The Senegalese president made the remarks in a meeting with Iran's President Mahmoud

Ahmadinejad in Tehran. Both sides condemned the Zionist regime's criminal acts in Gaza and called for an immediate halt to Israel's aggressions against the Gazans. Ahmadinejad said the "worst tragedy" is taking place in the Palestinian territory of Gaza.

According to Gaza medics, at least 1,133 Palestinians have been killed and another 5,130 wounded since Israel unleashed blitz on Gaza on December 27. The medics said some 600 of the victims have been civilians, including 355 children.

He said, "The leaders of Israel have lost control and that is why they are slaughtering the people of Gaza." He added people across the world have been holding demonstrations against the ongoing crimes in the Palestinian territory.

Although today the people in the Gaza Strip are in dire need of food, water, and medicine the Zionist regime does not let the humanitarian aid get through to them, he added. Ahmadinejad called on the U.S. and the European Union to cease their "unlimited support" for Israel. Ahmadinejad

praised Wade for his attempts to help resolve the Muslim world's problems and hoped that his efforts will soon bear fruit.

Wade said his country as the rotating chair of OIC will discuss the current situation in Palestine with all OIC members. Ahmadinejad and

Wade headed to Qatar on Friday and took part in Arab summit on the Gaza conflict.



**President of Senegal, and of the OIC, Abdoulaye Wade attends an Arab meeting on the Gaza crisis, in Qatar January 16, 2009. REUTERS/Osama Faisal (QATAR)**

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