

Palestinian factions declare victory, resistance to continue until Israel withdraws from Gaza, opens Rafa crossing

Palestinian factions give Israel 1 week to meet their demands

Olmert's "ceasefire" speech is a declaration of defeat

Source: PFLP Press Office

The "ceasefire" speech by Israeli prime minister Ehud Olmert on January 17, 2009 is a declaration of defeat, said the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in a press statement, noting that halting the airstrikes and keeping the Israeli occupation army troops on the ground is not a "ceasefire" and stating that the occupation forces will be a continual target for the resistance so long as they are in Gaza.

Comrade Dr. Maher al-Taher, member of the Political Bureau of the PFLP and leader of its branch in exile, said in an interview with Al-Jazeera that "the criminal Olmert's speech is a speech of defeat, and is a great victory for the resistance and for the steadfastness of our people in the Gaza Strip." He stressed that this is a historical achievement for the Palestinian people and called for building upon this victory for the next stage of fighting back against the occupier.



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Comrade Taher said, the enemy occupied our land in six days in 1967, but today they fail to occupy a corner of Gaza City, and this is a new stage and a tribute to the steadfastness of our people and our resistance. We must draw lessons from these accomplishments—that our clear political line and our national unity can be achieved on the basis of the continuation of the resistance and a political strategy that ends all reliance on the United States, Annapolis, the roadmap and Oslo, and all illegitimate and empty agreements with the occupation. Our people instead need a clear strategy based on our Palestinian national principles as raised by Palestinian prisoners in their national reconciliation document.

He noted further that the building of the massive of international popular solidarity and support for the Palestinian people, particularly as the brutality and crimes of the occupation has been revealed, has been a major force in support of our people, and that the people of the world are rejecting the occupier, rejecting Zionism, and rejecting this system as unacceptable, illegitimate and criminal.

Comrade Taher concluded by saying that the steadfastness of our people in Gaza sent a clear message to the leaders of Zionism, terrorism, the official Arab regimes and the

entire world that the will of our people has not been broken, and it cannot be defeated nor will it abandon the resistance under any circumstances.

The PFLP also condemned the so-called “memorandum of understanding” between the U.S. and Israel, saying that the occupier is only talking to itself, and that this is an “agreement” between strategic partners in the enemy camp. It stated further that this agreement is a new aggression against the Palestinian and Arab peoples, which aims to deny their right to defend themselves and resist occupation and aggression, and furthermore, to deny Arab sovereignty over our own borders and our own land. ▪



DFLP: Israeli ceasefire proves strength of Brigades; unity behind resisters essential

SALFIT, West Bank, Palestine, Jan. 18 (Ma’an)—Olmert’s decision to call a unilateral ceasefire shows the endurance of the resistance factions against the Israeli invasion into Gaza, said a Sunday statement from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

The ceasefire is the result of the “legendary endurance of the Palestinian people in Gaza Strip and the worldwide reaction which has pressured the Israeli government,” said the statement.

The document affirmed that without an Israeli withdrawal from the Strip than factions would never agree to a ceasefire, and further demand that the borders to the strip remain open for goods and citizens.

The DFLP said that Palestinian unity behind the resistance is essential in the coming days, and noted that the party is working on forming a common political leadership that includes all parties and factions that maintain resistance as their goal.

Shallah: World failed to check Israeli arrogance but resistance did

DOHA, Qatar, Jan. 18 (PIC)—Ramadan Shallah, the secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement, has asserted that the Israeli occupation forces and leadership had failed in achieving any of their declared aims of the war on Gaza.

Shallah, in a press statement commenting on Israeli premier Ehud Olmert’s address in which he declared unilateral ceasefire in Gaza, said that Olmert had failed in changing the de facto situation in Gaza, which is ending the Hamas rule. He also failed in halting the firing of rockets from the Strip, Shallah added.

The Jihad leader said that despite the fact that his Movement was not participating in the Hamas government in Gaza “we declare that the Hamas government is the legitimately elected government in Gaza”.

He said that Olmert’s statement that the decision was taken in response to an Egyptian request constituted an offense to Egypt because it indicated that Egypt was capable since the start of the aggression to stop it but it did not.

The world has failed to check the “Zionist entity’s arrogance” but the Palestinian resistance stood fast and refused to bow to Olmert’s conditions, Shallah elaborated.

He underlined that the continued presence of IOF troops in Gaza after the ceasefire declaration would make them targets for the resistance until the departure of the last soldier from Gaza lands.

Another Jihad leader, Sheikh Khader Habib, stressed that his Movement would continue to resist IOF soldiers as long as they remained in Gaza and as long as the siege on Gaza persisted.

He said that Olmert’s ceasefire declaration did not concern his Movement because it was unilateral, adding that the IOF did not achieve anything in its campaign against Gaza except killing hundreds of children and women.

MILITARY REPORT

PFLP Press Office

PFLP forces mourn Comrade Banar and affirm resistance will continue until occupation ends

The Abu Ali Mustafa Brigades, the armed wing of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, announced on January 16, 2009

that Comrade Commander Ashraf Ribhi Banar, fell in the battlefield while defending his people in Gaza.

Comrade Banar demonstrated heroism on many occasions, and was in charge of the missile unit in the eastern Gaza area. Comrade Banar carried out a heroic operation utilizing a B-27 shell against the occupation tanks, in which a tank was destroyed and several occupation soldiers were killed and wounded.

AAMB immediately responded with a barrage of rocket fire, launching 6 Grad rockets toward Bir Saba and Nafa, and 7 Sumoud missiles toward Sderot, the Western Naqab and occupied Asqalan.

Glory to our comrade! Victory is ours!

Responding to Olmert’s speech

Our armed forces responded to Olmert’s deceptive statement of January 19, 2009 about stopping airstrikes while maintaining occupation forces, by stating that these occupation ground forces will be met with missiles, explosive devices, bombs, snipers, B-27 anti tank weapons and all of the forces at our disposal.

The missiles and rockets will not stop, and our forces immediately announced the launching of Sumoud rockets against the occupier following Olmert’s speech in defiance of the continued threats of the occupier and demonstrating the steadfast continuation of our resistance. Any ground forces in Gaza, left behind as a defeated army, will be met with force and resistance until the Zionist invaders are swept away and Gaza is sovereign.

Towards victory!

Military factions continue to launch projectiles at Israeli targets

GAZA, Palestine, Jan. 18 (Ma'an)—Palestinian military factions continued to launch projectiles at Israeli targets Sunday, and Israeli troops responded to fire in the Strip despite the unilateral Israeli announcement of a ceasefire in the area.

The Hizbullah Brigades in Palestine said they launched three projectiles towards Sderot and the western Negev. They are calling their projectile blitz the “Blaze of Gaza,” said a statement from the group Sunday.

Al-Quds Brigades claims to have killed 18 soldiers in 22 days

Gaza, Palestine, Jan. 18 (Ma'an)—Islamic Jihad's Al-Quds Brigades lost 34 fighters during the Israeli onslaught in Gaza and launched 262 projectiles at Israeli targets, according to their spokesperson on Sunday.

Of the more than 1,300 Palestinians killed by Israeli fire, 34 Al-Quds Brigades fighters and leaders were killed. A statement said those who died were prepared to engage in “fierce” battles with Israeli troops.

Of the projectiles launched, said the spokesperson, 158 were at Ashkelon, Sderot, Kfar Azza, Nahal Oz, Nir Oz, Be'eri, Nirim, Miftahim and Eshkol. They claimed to have injured 16 Israeli “settlers” in the attacks and caused structural damage to homes and public properties.

The [DFLP] document affirmed that without an Israeli withdrawal from the Strip than factions would never agree to a ceasefire, and further demand that the borders to the strip remain open for goods and citizens.

The Brigades said they fired 77 mortars at Megan, Kissufim and gatherings of armored vehicles in the north-central and southeast areas of Gaza, injuring a number of Israeli soldiers.

There were 27 RPGs and 32 explosive charges detonated at armored vehicles and undercover units of the Israeli army, according to the Brigades.

Seven Israeli soldiers were shot, and at least 18 killed and 56 injured as the Brigades detonated explosives in homes where troops were taking cover, the Brigades spokesperson said. There was no way to independently verify the claims.

The Israeli military insists just 10 soldiers were killed in the Gaza fighting.

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