

BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK

END THE SIEGE IN GAZA

END THE SIEGE IN GAZA is a month long campaign organized by a coalition of groups from within the Israeli peace movement urging peace and justice activists around the world to demand that their governments pressure the government of Israel to end the siege of Gaza and its war on the civilian population of Gaza. Accordingly, we ask the Israeli army to withdraw its armed forces, release the tax revenues confiscated from the Palestinian government, and embark upon negotiations with the legitimate Palestinian representatives. The siege in Gaza is the result of both attacks by the Israel Defense Force and the sanctions imposed by the international community. The situation in Gaza is a humanitarian disaster that has been created and must be solved together.

We express our outrage and grief at the horrifying Israeli carnage of civilians in Bet Hanoun in Gaza Strip that cost the lives of 20 civilians, among them 7 children and 6 women, and left many more injured. Since the end of June, Israeli military assaults on civilians in Gaza have resulted in the killing of 383 Palestinians, among them 68 children and 14 women.

Ever since the “disengagement” from the Gaza Strip in the summer of 2005, Gaza has been under siege. The situation has reached emergency levels – inadequate water, electricity, and medicine; widespread hunger, poverty, and unemployment; schools and other services rendered inoperative; with constant bombardments and attacks by the Israeli military.

The siege of the Gaza Strip is a form of collective punishment which is being imposed upon every resident of the Strip, turning the entire area into a huge prison and denying its residents work, vital goods, appropriate medical care and basic human rights.

BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK, a group of Jewish feminists and allies, stands in solidarity with Israeli Women in Black who have held vigils weekly since 1988 to protest the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem and to mourn the Israeli and Palestinian lives that have been lost.

We wear black as a symbol of sorrow for all victims of war and as a way to join in spirit with the nearly 200 other Women in Black groups around the world who protest against militarism, violence, oppression, anti-Semitism, and racism, wherever it occurs.

We oppose militaristic and fundamentalist leadership in all countries, including our own, and are committed to nonviolent resistance against tyranny. We believe all people must have the right to security, home, education, and freedom.

DECEMBER 2ND - Join us at College and Ashby at 3:00 p.m. to stand in solidarity on the international day of mobilization against the emergency conditions in Gaza.

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WHAT YOU CAN DO

For more information about the background and history of the Israeli military presence in Gaza, go to: Coalition of Women for Peace at: www.coalitionofwomen.org

Send a letter to the Prime Minister and defense Minister of Israel condemning their current policy and demanding Israel end the siege on Gaza.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert

- Address: 3 Kaplan Street • Jerusalem • 91919 • Israel
- Fax: +972 2 -6705475
- Email: pmo.heb@it.pmo.gov.il

Defense Minister Amir Peretz

- Address: Defense Ministry • 37 Kaplan Street • Tel Aviv • 61909 • Israel
- Fax: +972 3 6976218 / 691 6940 / 696 2757 / 691 7915/
- Email: sar@mod.gov.il • pniot@mod.gov.il • aperetz@knesset.gov.il

IDF Chief of Staff Dan Halutz

- Address: Chief of Staff Office • Defense Ministry • 7 A Street • Hakyria • Tel Aviv • 61909 • Israel
- Fax: + 972 3 691 6940 / 608 0343
- Email: info@mail.idf.il

Join a local Jewish peace and justice organization in the Bay Area. There are a many groups reflecting a range of positions. Go to their websites, familiarize yourselves with their work and join the group that best reflects your own views.

Send money to the Middle-East Children's Alliance. A lot of humanitarian relief is needed and families need practical support. Help MECA continue to send funds for immediate needs in Gaza, specifically for milk, medications and blankets.

Middle-East Peace and Justice groups in the Bay Area:

Bay Area Women in Black
www.bayareawomeninblack.org

Jewish Voice for Peace
www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org

Tikkun
www.tikkun.org

Brit Tzedek V'Shalom
www.btvshalom.org

End the Occupation
www.endtheoccupation.org

Rabbis for Human Rights
www.rhr.israel.net

Middle East Children's Alliance
www.mecaforpeace.org