

BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK

Bay Area Women in Black stands in solidarity with the Israeli Coalition Against the Siege On Gaza

The ongoing Israeli attack on Gaza with U.S.-supplied F16s paid for with our tax dollars, has killed 425 Palestinians and wounded over 2,000 in the past seven days. Four Israelis were killed by Palestinian rocket fire.

Israeli officials assert that this action is the only way to end Palestinian rocket fire. They also claim that the Palestinians broke a six-month truce by firing rockets on Israeli towns close to Gaza. This claim is disputed by the following statement issued by the Israeli Coalition Against the Siege on Gaza the day before the Israeli attack began:

It is Israel which broke the truce - already a month and a half ago, in early November, the state of Israel broke the truce in a series of military attacks on Gaza, which caused the death of six Palestinians. In this way, the government of Israel, with its own hands, brought a rain of Qassam rockets upon the heads of the inhabitants of Sderot and the other Gaza Border communities. Afterwards, every time that the situation started calming down, more Palestinians were killed by the army, their killing provoking new salvos of rockets. Now the government is using the breaking of the truce as the pretext to launch a new military offensive, an offensive which would cost the lives of civilians and would not achieve any of its declared aims-certainly not the aim of bringing calm to the inhabitants of the border area.

It is Israel which is responsible for the poverty and despair, entailed by the siege on Gaza - already for months the million and a half inhabitants of Gaza live under an Israeli siege, with stoppages of water and electricity and a severe lack of vital goods. The Hamas government is stating that it would be possible to restore the truce should Israel agree to open the passages and allow the entry of goods, products, gasoline and people into the [Gaza] strip. The government chooses consciously to ignore the Hamas declaration and cynically chooses, for electoral puposes, the path of war.

The large Jewish-American presence at current U.S. demonstrations condemning the Israeli attack mirrors the courageous activism of the Israeli Coalition Against the Siege on Gaza.

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