

Cease-Fire Now & End Gaza Blockade

- **LA Jews for Peace** joins the world community in demanding a cease-fire now to stop the killing of civilians. The killing of Palestinian civilians is not being done in our name.

As of July 24, Israel has killed over 700 Palestinians in Gaza through attacks from air, ground, and sea. According to the U.N., most of those killed are civilians, including women and children (<http://www.imemc.org/article/68429>).

Israeli bombardment of civilian targets must stop because they are war crimes. LA Jews for Peace concurs with B'Tselem, the Israeli human rights NGO, that Israel must "immediately cease the bombardment of inhabited homes, neighborhoods and areas in the Gaza Strip" (http://www.btselem.org/20140721_btselem_calls_on_government_to_cease_bombardment). Bombing houses and hospitals with people in them, even if a warning was issued, is unacceptable and violates international and Jewish law.

Three Israeli civilians have been killed. Palestinian rockets must stop - they are aimed at civilian targets and like the Israeli bombardment, are a war crime.

- **LA Jews for Peace** demands that Israel and Egypt end their blockade of the Gaza Strip. Over seven years the blockade has destroyed the Gaza economy by preventing the free movement of people and the import and export of agricultural and manufactured goods. The blockade is the root cause of Palestinian frustration that underlies their primitive rocket attacks on Israel.

President Obama wrote to the *Haaretz* Israel Conference on Peace earlier this month that "Peace is the only path to true security for Israel and the Palestinians" (<http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/israel-peace-conference/1.603324>).

Ending the blockade of Gaza is a critical step to peace, and in the short run will give hope to the people of Gaza so they will not attack Israel in frustration.

- **LA Jews for Peace** demands an end to U.S. government's unconditional diplomatic, financial, and military support of Israel that enables the occupation of the West Bank and the blockade of Gaza. Israel's use of American supplied weapons, like F-16 jets and Apache helicopters, in its aggressive war on Gaza civilians violates United States laws – namely the Arms Export Control Act and the Foreign Assistance Act. It is time for the Obama Administration to finally support a binding United Nations Security Council resolution to end both the fighting and the siege of Gaza.

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