



The Middle East Council of Churches Condemns the Events in Gaza

The Executive Committee of the Middle East Council of Churches held a meeting on 15/1/2009. During this meeting the conferees stopped at the unfortunate events taking place in Gaza, and the General Secretary distributed a brief about the firing of an Israeli rocket the evening of January 10, 2009 on the building hosting the Shuja'ia clinic of the Middle East Council of Churches/Department for Service to the Palestinian Refugees, and also the firing of a second Israeli rocket after 10 minutes on the apartment building hosting the clinic which destroyed completely the clinic. To note that this is a clinic for motherhood and childhood that was servicing 40-50 thousand families per year; the loss is therefore estimated at several hundred thousand dollars.

The General Secretary explained that ACT (The Churches Acting Together), in Geneva has brought the first shipment of medical and food aid on 13/1/2009 and that there is an Appeal for Gaza to respond to the problems that resulted from this war and its destructive effects.

The Middle East Council of Churches earnestly appeals to all those who love peace in the world to intervene for stopping this fight which kills every day dozens and wounds hundreds of our Palestinian brothers. The Israeli war machine has no mercy on the old, children or women.

The unfortunate events that are happening in Gaza since December 27, 2008 until now, involving the killing of innocent children, women and old people, are contrary to everything in the international charters of human rights.

The Council appeals to the Arab League and all the Arab Countries to take a strong position on this painful reality for an immediate end to blood shed. The Council also appeals to the United Nations-The Security Council to intervene immediately for stopping the firing in the desire to save the lives of innocent people and also to support the dispatching of humanitarian aid that are sent to our brothers in the besieged Gaza.

The Middle East Council of Churches appeals also to the World Council of Churches, all the ecumenical councils and our partners in the ecumenical work to intervene quickly with their governments to influence strongly on the implementation of the cease fire and to put pressure on Israel for responding to this request.

May God inspire the leaders with wisdom and grant His peace to the Middle East, He is the God and King of Peace.

Guirgis Ibrahim Saleh
The General Secretary
The Middle East Council of Churches