

## **JALISA Statement for Solidarity with Palestine People and Condemning Invasion of Israel into Gaza**

We the Japan Lawyers International Solidarity Association (JALISA), founded in 1957 as lawyers and citizens' gathering for embracing three pillars of the Constitution of Japan, such as sovereignty of nation, pacifism and respect of human rights, being inspired by the Charter of the United Nations, such as equality of sovereign peoples, banning the threat or use of force, and aspiring ideals of peace and human dignity, express our solidarity with people in Palestine who yearn for peace and human dignity, while we condemn strongly Israeli Government for their acts taken since July 8, 2014.

On July 8, 2014, the Israeli Military Forces reportedly started aerial bombardments over Gaza Strip, and on July 13, escalated into a ground battle by attacking even a hospital run by the United Nations and schools filled with children to make up serious casualty as many as over 2000 persons killed including over 400 children and over 10,000 injured including 2,200 children. The Israeli Forces went for social infrastructures such as water supply, electricity power plants and even food factories, which means they eradicate social fundamentals of people living in Gaza Strip.

Facing these situations, Ms. Navi Pillay, High Commissioner of the United Nations for Human Rights, described the Israel's military attacks as crimes against humanity, while at the same time the President of the UN Security Council made public a statement to call for an immediate cease fire. Furthermore upon the resolution (S-21/1) adopted by the Human Rights Council on July 23, 2014 on "Ensuring compliance of the international law in Occupied Palestine including East Jerusalem," three independent experts were designated, including as its chair Prof. William A. Schabas, renowned expert in international criminal law.

National Lawyers Guild (NLG), progressive lawyers association in the United States, made public a statement in collaboration with the Center for the Constitutional Rights (CCR), International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL), and American Jurists Association (AAJ), to Ms. Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, to ask her to conduct investigation by office against international crimes (genocide, crimes against humanity) according Article 15 of the Rome Statute. In Egypt, the Israeli Government and Palestine Government are now sitting at the table for

discussing a cease fire.

As we affirm the right to peace as legal entity, we call for realizing refugee's right to return to his/her homeland, putting an end for good to Israeli occupation of West Bank of the Jordan River including East Jerusalem and Gaza Strip, making up for a fundamental solution of the problems in Palestine, which have hindered independence of Palestine as a State, while for immediate issues we also call for an immediate cease fire of Israel's attacks against Gaza Strip, lifting blockages and siege which are heavily interruptive to transportation of people and materials, and complete reparation of damages resulting from attacks against civilian population and civilian facilities, and punishment of the responsible for these acts, as well as for supervision and commitment of the international society in order to prevent any more use of armed force or threat of use of force.

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Japan Lawyers International Solidarity Association (JALISA)

President Sei-ichi Ohkuma

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