

The Embassy of Israel
Parkveien 35
0258 Oslo

Palestinian friendship cities in Norway call on Israel to immediately stop the war in Gaza

We are mayors of cities with long and strong ties of friendship with Palestinian cities, and it is with deep concern that we watch the unfolding events in Israel's ongoing war in Gaza. On behalf of the citizens of our cities, we urge Israel to immediately cease hostilities and allow humanitarian organizations to enter Gaza in accordance with the Geneva Convention and humanitarian rules and laws.

We respect the need and the right of the Israeli government to protect its citizens. However, the consequences of the recent actions against Gaza cannot be justified. Such violence will not bring peace or safety to either the Israeli or Palestinian people in the region.

We are extremely worried about the humanitarian situation in Gaza. In addition to killing innocent civilians, the Israeli army is also destroying schools, mosques and other social institutions. In our view, these institutions if left intact could play an important role in creating peace in the area.

Despite being spread throughout areas with no normal means of communication due to the many checkpoints and walls of separation, Palestinians are one people. The situation for the people of Gaza consequently concerns all Palestinians, both in Palestine and abroad. It also concerns their friendship cities in Norway.

We therefore urge Israel to immediately stop the war, to leave Gaza, and to open the borders for humanitarian aid, medicine, food and the possibility of building a new future.

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Mayor of Lærdal
Friendship city of Jericho

Arild Hausberg
Mayor of Tromsø
Friendship city of Gaza

Jan Olav Engsmyr
Mayor of Sarpsborg
Friendship city of Betlehem

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Mayor of Trondheim
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Friendship cities in Palestine
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