

**INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN
ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES**

IAW website: <http://www.womenalliance.org>

**Equal Rights - Equal Responsibilities
Droits Égaux - Responsabilités Égales**

IAW – FLASH July 2006, nr. 2



Dear IAW members,

In the light of the recent escalation in the Near East:

*IAW calls on the international community to exercise its responsibility for the protection of human security, human rights, and the fundamental rights of all to live in a healthy and sustainable environment, free from occupation, oppression, terrorist attacks and the arbitrary use of force as stipulated in international law and human rights conventions. We call for an exchange of prisoners, **an end to violence on both sides** and for the immediate return to the path of negotiations under the leadership of the United Nations.*

Rosy Weiss, IAW President

Editor's note: we have received many reactions on the escalation in the Near East. We are sending you one of them, the 'Call for Immediate Action' from the International Women's Commission, IWC.

IWC is an International body of Palestinian, Israeli and international women established under the umbrella of UNIFEM in 2005 in accordance with 1325 UN Resolution.

IWC Membership is on a personal capacity.

CALL FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

July 9, 2006. As Israeli, Palestinian and International women leaders and activists, members of the IWC, dedicated to the goal of ending the occupation and achieving a just and sustainable Palestinian-Israeli peace based on a two-state solution, committed to the respect of international law, human rights and equality, we are alarmed at the escalating use of force and violence that threatens to destroy all options for creating a humane future for ourselves and our children.

WE CALL on the government of Israel to immediately cease its war on the civilian population of Gaza and withdraw its armed forces.

We demand the cessation of the irresponsible and totally unacceptable policy of deprivation and collective punishment. The destruction of power stations and infrastructure has denied access to water and electricity to over two-thirds of the population, which has aggravated an already deteriorating situation due to the long-standing siege imposed. Today the humanitarian crisis is reaching unprecedented proportions.

WE CALL on the international community to exercise its responsibility for the protection of human security, human rights, and the fundamental rights of all to live in an environment of peace and

security, free from occupation, oppression and the arbitrary use of force as stipulated in international law and human rights conventions.

We call for an exchange of prisoners and an end to the targeting of innocent civilians, Palestinian and Israeli.

History has proven that such conflicts have no military solutions and we call for the immediate return to the path of negotiations

Israeli members:

Aida Touma-Sliman, General Director, Women against Violence

Amal Elsana Alhjooj, Director, Arab Jewish Center for Equality Empowerment and Cooperation

Anat Saragusti, TV journalist, Itach- Women Lawyers for Social Justice and The Association of civil Rights in Israel board member

Busayna Dabit: Shatil, Mixed Cities Project Coordinator, Shatil

Deborah Lerman, Marketing Executive, Sapiens International, Bat Shalom and Women in Black board member

Galia Golan, Professor of Government, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (emerita) and IDC Herzlyia, Bat Shalom and Peace Now board member

Khulood Badawi, Field Researcher, the Association of Civil Rights in Israel

Molly Malekar, Director, Bat Shalom of the Jerusalem Link

Naava Eisin, Director, the Archives of Jewish Education, Tel-Aviv University, Bat Shalom and Machsom Watch board member

Naomi Chazan, Professor of Political Science, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (emerita); Former Member of Knesset (Meretz Party) and Deputy Speaker of the Knesset

Nurit Haghagh, Director, Hakeshet Hamdemocratit Hamizrahit movement

Rola Hamed (Abu Zied), Project Coordinator Heinrich Böll Foundation, Bat Shalom board member

Sarai Aharoni, PhD Candidate, Bar-Ilan University and Isha l' Isha Feminist Center

Zehava Galon, Member of Knesset, Meretz Party

Palestinian Members:

Amal Khreisheh, General Director, Palestinian Working Women Society for Development

Annan Attiri, Director, Nablus Governorate

Hannan Taha, Director, Paltrade – Gaza Branch

Hania Bitar, Director, Pyalara (A Youth Organization)

Hanan Ashrawi, Palestinian Legislative Council Member & President of Miftah

Lama Hourani, Gaza Strip Coordinator, Palestinian Working Women Society for Development.

Maha Abu Dayyeh, General Director, Women Centre for legal Aid and Counseling

May Keileh, Palestinian Ambassador, Chile

Nebras Bseisso, Director, Palestinian Banking Association/ Gaza Strip

Naela Ayesh, General Director, Women Affair Centre

Samia Bamia , Ambassador, Former Head of European Affairs at MOFA

Salwa Hudeib, Minister Deputy , Ministry of Women Affairs

Siham Barghouti, Chairperson, Society of Women Action.

Samar Hawash, Nablus Coordinator, Palestinian Working Women Society for Development

Tahani Abu Daqqa, Women Activist and Community Development Advisor

Wafa' Abdel-Rahman, General Director, Filastiniyat Organization

Zahira Kamal, Director, Women Centre for Studies and Research

Mayada Abbasi, Palestinian Ambassador, Brazil.

International Members:

Anna Gomez, Member of the European Parliament

Antigoni Karali-Dimitriadi, Representative to UN CSW, CEDAW 1998-2004, Greece

Frene Ginwala, former Speaker of Parliament, South Africa

Luisa Morgantini, Member of European Parliament (Italy), Chair of the European Parliament Development Committee.

Jessica Neuwirth, President, Equality Now (USA)

Sylvia Borren, Executive Director Oxfam-Novib, Netherlands

Simone Susskind, Advisor Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice, Belgium

Note

We are sending this FLASH as an attachment, saved in Word 97.

Please be so kind to advise Pat Richardson if you know of any IAW members or affiliate/associate organisations with an e-mail address, so we can mail them this FLASH too.

IAW Newsletter / News Flash	: Joke Sebus	<iaw.newsletter@womenalliance.org>
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Membership Officer	: Pat Richardson	<iaw.membership@womenalliance.org>
Treasurer	: Marieluise Weber	<iawtreas@womenalliance.org>