Letter of Statement

Cities are not targets! Populated areas are not targets! Anger at or fear of terrorists, unjust
governments, or warriors of any kind is no excuse for the wanton slaughter of innocent
noncombatants.

In August 2006, Mayors for Peace condemned both the indiscriminate firing of thousands of
rockets toward populated areas in Israel by Hezbollah and the disproportionate bombardment
of populated areas in Lebanon by Israeli armed forces.

Today, with Hamas firing only one tenth as many rockets as Hezbollah and with Israel
concentrating firepower comparable to that used in Lebanon on an area ten times smaller, i.e.
the Gaza Strip, even-handed criticism is no longer appropriate. Our condemnation of
indiscriminate rocket fire stands. We call on Hamas to immediately halt all violent attacks.
However, to simply condemn the disproportionate use of explosive force is, under these
circumstances, grossly inadequate. We are appalled by the Israeli Government’s lack of
humanity and demand immediate international intervention.

We demand an immediate halt to all use of explosive force in and from the Gaza Strip; a
guarantee of immediate access for humanitarian aid to assist the Palestinian civilian
population; an internationally monitored ceasefire; and negotiations involving all parties to
begin as soon as the ceasefire has taken effect, as called for in UN Security Council
Resolution 1860. We are convinced that the search for a political solution through dialogue
and respect for human rights are the most effective avenues towards peace.

January 16, 2009

The Conference of Mayors for Peace

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