

Bangladesh Development Initiative (BDI) Statement on War in Gaza November 22, 2023

The undersigned members of the *Bangladesh Development Initiative* (BDI), a research think-tank based in USA, calls upon the government of Israel to immediately stop its military operations in Gaza, where, according to UN estimates, Israeli military operations have already caused the death of over 12,000 civilians, including 4,000 children. These tragic statistics will only get worse as we know that many thousands are buried under the rubble. This slaughter of innocent civilians, and the destruction of hospitals, schools, and places of worship, the prolonged blockage of water supply, food, electricity, fuel, and communications, violate all norms of humanity, and have been widely condemned as a textbook example of "war crimes" and "crimes against humanity" according to the Geneva Conventions.

BDI condemns attacks on all civilians, Palestinian and Israeli. The October 7 attack and taking of hostages from settlements was most tragic. However, the disproportionate and vengeful response by the Israeli military, openly aided politically and militarily by the Biden administration and many governments in the West, is deeply disturbing. Tens of millions of ordinary people in the world, in the East and in the West, have marched in massive protests against the cruel injustice and ongoing violence perpetrated against Palestinians today, and over the past 75 years. This is not a religious conflict, rather a matter of grave injustice thrust upon the Palestinian people, a diverse group representing many faith traditions.

We call for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, the release of all hostages, the opening of all avenues for emergency humanitarian relief for the besieged and traumatized population of Gaza, and the beginning of a genuine peace process through urgent negotiations. The vision must be to break the 75-year-old cycle of oppression and violence, to allow the displaced Palestinians to return to their homes, and live in safety and dignity in their own independent country, as neighbors of the state of Israel. The goal should be no less than to correct a historic injustice, leading to a lasting peace based on justice for all the people of the Middle-East.

Signatures:

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PS: To urgently support the millions of victims of war in Gaza, please consider sending your gifts to the following organizations, among others working on the ground in Gaza/Palestine:

[Middle East Children's Alliance](#)

<https://secure.everyaction.com/b00t33wD-EOVJ1cNTyHixg2>

“1.5 million people have now been displaced in Gaza. MECA's staff, partners, and volunteers have already gotten aid to tens of thousands of people and we will continue as long as possible. Families in Gaza are in need of your urgent support! Israeli warplanes are bombing Gaza right now, causing death, injury, and trauma. MECA's staff and local partners in Gaza are on the ground responding to the most urgent needs of children and families.”

[Palestine Children's Relief Fund \(PCRF\)](#)

<https://www.pcrf.net/>

“Help Provide Urgent Humanitarian Care for Gaza's Children amidst the Unfolding Crisis in Gaza, Over One Million Children Hang in the Balance. PCRF is the primary humanitarian organization in Palestine, delivering crucial and life-saving medical relief and humanitarian aid where it is needed most. Access to essential resources like food, clean water, and healthcare is severely limited. Urgent action is needed. With your support, we can continue this vital work, ensuring that the over one million children of Gaza receive the urgent care they need and deserve.”