



World Alliance of YMCAs

2nd June 2010

Mr. Joseph Alfassy
Consulate of Israel
Avenue de la Paix 1-3
1202 Geneva

Your Excellency,

We are writing on behalf of the World Alliance of YMCAs, a federation of YMCA national movements in 124 countries, to express our concern and dismay at the assault last Monday on the vessel carrying vital humanitarian aid for the people of Gaza. We were in touch with Mr. Issa Saba, the General Secretary of Gaza YMCA who told us that there is anger and deep sadness in Gaza for what happened, for the loss of life as well as the continued denial of their right to humanitarian assistance especially in view of the economic blockade imposed on the Strip since 2007.

We are convinced that the assault on the humanitarian convoy was a violation of international law and reiterate the call of the UN Security Council on the Israeli Government to conduct a “prompt, impartial, transparent and credible” inquiry into the incident. We also urge the Israeli Government to ensure the successful delivery of humanitarian aid from the convoy to Gaza and lift the economic blockade it had imposed on Gaza since 2007. Clearly, the assault underlines more than ever the need for an end to the occupation of the Palestinian territories.

We pray for those who were hurt and especially for the bereaved families of those who lost their lives. We express our sympathies and solidarity to the Gaza YMCA as well as the YMCAs in East Jerusalem and the West Bank and reiterate our commitment to a just and lasting peace in Palestine and Israel.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Martin Meißner
President

Dr. Bartholomew Shaha
Secretary General