



**PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY
THE PRESIDENT**

6 January 2009

**Your Excellency Mr. Pottering,
President of the European Parliament**

In reference to the dramatic situation in Gaza, please allow me to express my sentiment of astonishment to the silence of the European Parliament. Numerous doctrines and resolutions of the European Parliament are about human rights and have always acted to safeguard and uphold these principles. The events currently undergoing in Gaza are a clear violation of all such principles.

We expected to hear from the European Parliament a certain level of denunciation towards the Israeli aggression against the civilian population in Gaza, which has caused substantial killings of men, women and children and the destruction of the infrastructure of the city.

According to international humanitarian law, Israeli crimes are not merely world war crimes, but they are also crimes against humanity. Self defense does not justify the aggression or the disproportional defense measures.

The real challenge is to achieve peace and security. The military victory of Israel will never lead to the accomplishment of this goal. The only way to reach peace and security is to give the Palestinians their legitimate rights of having an independent and viable state of their own.

Mr. President, I appeal to you as president of the Euro- Med Assembly for the current session to call upon an urgent meeting of the bureau to express strong condemnation of the Israeli aggression. In your consideration, please take into account that the majority of the Mediterranean countries are Arab countries, which have all severely condemned the Israeli aggression.

Sincerely yours,

**Dr. Ahmad Fathi Sorour
President of the Egyptian People's Assembly**