



**PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY
THE PRESIDENT**

Cairo, 26 April 2009.

**Honorable Reuven Ruby Rivlin
Speaker of the Israeli Knesset,**

I received with further concern your letter dated 21 April 2009 that recalled for the Israeli people the painful Holocaust Remembrance Day, as Israel mourns the murder of six million Jews. I had regard to your letter with extreme care. We sincerely share your feelings about remembering the lamentable tragedy of the Nazis holocaust, being a stigma on the forehead of humanity in the 20th Century.

We condemn this affliction as one of the most atrocious crimes ever perpetrated against humanity in the last century. We always stress to the entire world our position against any and all obsolete and revived forms of Hitler-driven Nazism.

But to tell you the truth, this occasion, as it commemorates such a deplorable memory, is aligned with the following:

- 1) The Jewish-hostile Holocaust was carried out by Europeans and in the recognition of Europe, and not at the hands of an Arab or Islamic population.
- 2) We, as representatives of a people genuinely belonging to one of the most longstanding civilizations worldwide, and based on our tolerant Islamic faith that conveyed to the whole of mankind the message of love and forbearance, strongly conjure up to invoke the lesson learnt from this heinous onslaught, and work on clearing hearts of hatred and racism for the other and instill instead feelings of love and tolerance, preventing thereby the perpetration of crimes analogous to holocaust-like liquidations and genocides of unarmed innocent civilians allegedly on account of terror-fighting. In this respect, we, with dismay and regret, are also reminding you of crimes against humanity committed against Arab peoples, in particular the Palestinians



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who were killed or wounded in millions, starting with the Bahr el Baqar massacre in Egypt, for example, Sabra and Shatilla, Deir Yaseen, Qana and the "1" and "2' in Lebanon, and peaking in the Gaza massacre begun on 27 December 2008, leaving behind about 4000 deaths and 6000 injuries, 40% of them were women and children who were grazed to the ground by the Israeli war machine that spared no time in using the internationally-prohibited "white phosphor".

- 3) We, as parliamentarians and speakers in the name of our peoples, abide by international instruments recommending the rejection of all forms of discrimination and violence depending on race, religion or ethnicity. To this effect, we categorically turn down all forms of distinction among religions, with particular emphasis on the rejection of any explicit or implicit correlation between Islam, with all the human sublime values it involves, and terrorism, no matter its form.
- 4) For assurance, your message is but appropriately timely. It is now high time to go for an enlightened practical thought denoting wider steps towards establishing just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, making 2009 the year of peace, such as long-awaited for by peace-loving peoples. It is to the credit of peace that tolerance and respect for the other can be maintained, and rancor, hate and revenge-disposed desires dispelled. Thanks to peace, the 50-year overflowing bloodsheds will be brought to a stop, to be substituted by blooming sentiments, optimism and mutual respect. Guided by peace, hope for a safer future and a better life for our sons and grandsons is renewed.

Truly,

Dr. Ahmad Fathi Sorour

President of the Egyptian People's Assembly