

Dear Mr. President,

We are writing to urge your Administration to support recommendations of the Report of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict (Goldstone Report) that the Israeli Government and relevant Palestinian authorities in Gaza launch independent investigations into the serious violations of International Humanitarian and International Human Rights Law documented by the Mission. We urge you to work with others in the United Nations General Assembly to secure adoption of a resolution calling for such investigations and to ensure that such investigations are carried out in conformity with international standards and include appropriate mechanisms to provide independent assessments of the investigations and their results.

We believe it is imperative that the U.S. government demonstrate its unequivocal support for human rights and the protection of Israeli and Palestinian civilians. We believe credible, independent investigations of the findings of the Goldstone Report, with an appropriate mechanism to provide an unbiased review of the investigations, will promote accountability among all parties to the conflict and put an end to the culture of impunity that currently prevails.

While some argue that the anti-Israel bias of the United Nations Human Rights Council should disqualify further consideration the Goldstone Report, the findings therein must be credibly and independently investigated to reaffirm the commitment of the U.S. and other governments to uphold international law. We believe strong U.S. leadership on this issue can generate international support for your Administration's efforts in the region and demonstrate to Israelis and Palestinians that respect for human rights is a fundamental objective of U.S. policy in the region.

Sincerely,

Amnesty International USA
Arab American Institute
The Carter Center
Democracy Coalition Project
The Open Society Institute
Rabbis for Human Rights-North America