

In regards to: House Resolution 867 regarding the Goldstone Commission report on Operation Cast Lead

To: Interested Persons

From: Israeli Human Rights organizations

To Whom It May Concern:

We appeal to you as representatives of the human rights community in Israel regarding House Resolution 867.

From day one, the Israeli human rights community has consistently called for Israel to conduct an independent and impartial investigation into the conduct of its forces during "Operation Cast Lead" in the Gaza Strip. Today, this call is increasingly echoed by Israelis across the political spectrum. Deputy Prime Minister Dan Meridor (Likud), Minister of Improvement of Government Services Michael Eitan (Likud), Minority Affairs Minister Avishay Braverman (Labor), and National Infrastructure Minister Uzi Landau (Yisrael Beiteinu) have all called for such an inquiry, as has Aryeh Deri, former leader of the Shas party. The US State Department has called for such an inquiry as has National Security Advisor James Jones.

Such an investigation, provided it meets international standards for scope and independence, would put an end to the polarizing international debate around the Goldstone Report and show that Israel is a law-abiding state that can ensure accountability at home.

However, we are concerned that HRes. 867 may derail the momentum towards an Israeli investigation. Resolution 867 contains factual inaccuracies, both about the Goldstone Report and about the measures taken by Israel to date, that must not guide choices by policy makers.

We urge interested parties and Members of the House to show their support for the internal democratic conversation taking place in Israel and to call on Israel to demonstrate that it can ensure genuine accountability at home.

Sincerely,

B'Tselem

Gisha

Hamoked – Center for the Defence of the Individual

Public Committee Against Torture in Israel

Rabbis for Human Rights

Yesh Din – Volunteers for Human Rights