



## **Statement of the Pugwash Council**

### ***Cease-Fire in the Gaza Strip***

**9 January 2009**

"The Council of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, co-recipient of the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize, calls for an immediate and permanent stop to all military operations in, against and from Gaza and for a negotiated agreement of all the parties involved.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza is unbearable: Gaza is kept as a large prison where people are not even allowed to escape the bombing. In Gaza the loss of human life among the civilian population and the living conditions of the survivors are unacceptable. And all this at a time when the population should have the right of being protected by Israel as the occupying force.

While the attacks on southern Israel should also stop, the disproportionate effect of the use of the full Israeli might against a densely populated area has created an unprecedented crisis in Palestine and should be immediately put to an end.

The end of the Israeli occupation and the achievement of a peace agreement constitute the urgent and critical step that must be taken.

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