



GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TÜRKİYE  
ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY



**Statement by President of the Asian Parliamentary  
Assembly on the Situation in Gaza**

*1 November 2023*

Expressing grave concern over the latest escalation in the region; deeply troubled by the high number of civilian casualties and the incalculable suffering inflicted on Palestinians; deploring the flagrant violations of international law and the inaction of the international community; and extremely alarmed by the dire humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, which is deteriorating day after day, I hereby declare the following in my capacity as President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA):

I unequivocally condemn any attack targeting civilians by whomever and for whatever purpose. I equally condemn and categorically reject creation of a discriminatory hierarchy among civilians, alluding to a racist idea of superiority of one over another. Palestinians deserve the same level of protection and respect for their rights and dignity. Nothing can justify Israel's barbaric attacks amounting to crimes against humanity.

The situation in Gaza had already reached to a worrying level of ferocity, with targeted attacks on hospitals, schools, refugee camps, mosques and churches where desperate civilians had sought for medical care and shelter. As Israel's military aggression intensifies with heavy bombardments and ground invasion, more than two million residents in Gaza, half of whom consist of children, have been left in a desperate situation, in complete blackout and isolation, without electricity, food, water and other basic necessities for their survival.

International law is crystal clear, leaving no room for confusion: the imposition of total sieges endangering civilian lives, depriving civilians of goods essential for their survival, acts of collective punishment, direct or indiscriminate attacks against civilians, civilian objects and civilian infrastructure, as well as the forcible displacement of a civilian population are all prohibited.



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I call for an immediate cessation of such gross violations.

Given the scale of ongoing humanitarian crisis, I add my voice on the recent UN General Assembly resolution calling for an immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce leading to a cessation of hostilities, also demanding an urgent and unimpeded provision of humanitarian assistance to civilians trapped in the enclave.

While the spill over of the ongoing conflict to other parts of the region is of grave concern, the international community must redouble its efforts to de-escalate tensions and to ensure a humanitarian ceasefire. In this regard, the instruments of parliamentary diplomacy also have a role to play. Through the Asian Parliamentary Assembly and other inter-parliamentary mechanisms, it is incumbent upon all of us to exercise our collective political responsibility to pursue and ensure peace and security in the Middle East and elsewhere.

In order to break the vicious cycle of violence, the root causes of the ongoing conflict, namely, the decades-long illegal Israeli occupation, settlement and demographic engineering and ways forward to put an end to it must be duly addressed. Provocations disregarding the status quo and the sanctity of holy sites must also end.

A lasting solution to the conflict would only be possible through the embodiment of an independent, sovereign and geographically contiguous State of Palestine based on the pre-1967 borders with Jerusalem as its capital.

The entire international community must work to this end.

**Prof. Numan KURTULMUŞ**  
**President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly**  
**Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye**