

Protest Message
November 20, 2023

Israel must immediately cease its unlawful and indiscriminate attacks on Gaza residents and withdraw! We call for an immediate ceasefire.

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The Israeli military's massive airstrikes and ground invasion of Gaza in the Palestinian territories continue to cause increasing civilian casualties in Gaza. On November 17, Palestinian Authority health officials announced that the death toll in Gaza has exceeded 12,000. It is reported that 5,000 of the dead were children. At an informal meeting of the UN General Assembly on November 18, it was reported that only one hospital was functioning in northern Gaza and that 18 of the 24 hospitals had been closed.

Israel claims that it is "self-defense" against attacks by the Islamic organization Hamas. However, if this is the case, then the Palestinian counterattacks against the Israeli military occupation over the years and the frequent military attacks could be also called "self-defense".

However, even in self-defense, attacking civilians and holding them hostage is unacceptable. Furthermore, what the Israeli military is now doing to the Gaza Strip is nothing less than an indiscriminate attack on all 2.2 million residents, cutting off water, electricity, food, fuel, and other resources necessary for their daily lives. What is self-defense about military attacks that frequently hit even hospitals? It is clearly genocide and a war crime. It is an unforgivable act that violates international humanitarian law in every way.

In addition, an Israeli cabinet member was reported to have said that dropping the atomic bomb was "one option." As an A-bomb survivor who experienced the atomic bombing, we strongly protest this statement, as it is unacceptable.

On October 28, the UN General Assembly overwhelmingly adopted a resolution calling on the belligerents to immediately enter into a sustained humanitarian truce. The resolution also calls for the release of the hostages by Hamas. Also on November 15, the UN Security Council held an emergency session and adopted by a majority a resolution calling on both Israel and the Islamic organization Hamas to "urgently and humanely suspend" the fighting. (The U.S., U.K., and Russia abstained.)

An immediate ceasefire is absolutely necessary. However, the international community also needs to question its historical responsibility in creating this problem through the partition of Palestine in the first place, as well as its failure to stop Israel from ignoring the partition and expanding its military occupation and committing a series of lawless acts. In this regard, the United Nations and the international community, including Japan, must be aware that they are also parties to this problem. In light of this, we call on all parties to accept the ceasefire proposal of the UN General Assembly resolution and call on Israel to immediately cease its attacks on Gaza, withdraw and lift the blockade.

We also call for an end to the unjust military occupation of many Palestinian areas by Israel, which is at the root of the problem, and for action to achieve a peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem, in which two states, Israel and Palestine, coexist.

For this purpose, we strongly appeal to the Japanese government, which has the Peace Constitution, to take positive action to realize true peace.