



**United Nations General Assembly  
Tenth Emergency Special Session (resumed)  
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory  
16 January 2009**

**Statement delivered by Ambassador Minas Hadjimichael, Permanent Representative of the  
Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations**

Mr. President,

Cyprus fully aligns with the statement delivered yesterday by the Presidency of the European Union.

As expressed by so many member States here, Cyprus is also gravely concerned, both for the situation itself and the lack of respect for and implementation of UNSCR 1860. We regret to empirically confirm yet again, the shortcomings of our system of collective security.

We condemn the absence of a ceasefire, the excessive and disproportionate use of force by Israel, all acts of violence, the unjustifiable number of civilian casualties, and the dire humanitarian situation in which Gaza continues to find itself.

We strongly condemn Israel's shelling of United Nations Headquarters in Gaza yesterday and the attacks against UNRWA schools last week.

We stress the paramount importance of respecting international law, in particular international humanitarian law, and call for an impartial inquiry into allegations of violations of international law.

We affirm the right of all civilians to live in safety and security.

We welcome the periodic opening of humanitarian corridors but have witnessed on the ground the inadequacy of this measure to ensure provision of the necessary humanitarian assistance and relief.

We urge for the withdrawal of all Israeli forces from Gaza, we reiterate that Gaza will be an integral part of the Palestinian state and express the hope that the peace process will be revived despite the damage it will undoubtedly sustain through the ongoing military operation.

Lastly, Mr. President, we support the ongoing efforts by the United Nations Secretary-General to ensure implementation of resolution 1860 by all parties and bring about an immediate ceasefire, as well as other efforts to this end, such as the Egyptian and French initiatives.

Thank you.