



(Please check against delivery)

**STATEMENT BY H.E. YUKIO TAKASU,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN  
ON ILLEGAL ISRAELI ACTIONS IN OCCUPIED EAST JERUSALEM  
AND THE REST OF THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY  
AT TENTH EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION  
16 JANUARY, 2009, NEW YORK**

Mr. President,

Japan shares serious concern about the situation in and around the Gaza Strip. We deplore the heavy casualties, now reaching over 1000, which include more than 300 children and 70 women, according to the report by Mr. John Holms, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs the day before yesterday.

As stated in Security Council resolution 1860, Japan condemns all violence and hostilities directed against civilians and all acts of terrorism. As a staunch supporter of UNRWA activities for Palestinians, what happened at UNRWA facilities yesterday is not acceptable. There is extensive damage to public infrastructure which is having an adverse impact to this dire situation. This may affect the population in the long-term. We call for, once again, an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire.

In this regard, we fully support Security Council resolution 1860 which was adopted with the broadest possible political support last week. Japan fully supports the elements contained in the resolution and will work together with other members of the international community to realize those elements. As a member of the Security Council, Japan, united with all members of the Security Council, will remain seized of the matter, not just until there is a ceasefire, but until true peace is realized in the region.

Mr. Hirofumi Nakasone, Foreign Minister of Japan conveyed to Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Foreign Minister of Egypt Japan's appreciation to the diplomatic efforts underway in bringing about a ceasefire. We also give our wholehearted support to the Secretary General, who is currently in the region and working tirelessly as we speak, for bringing an end to the violence. We look forward to the Secretary General's report of the trip to the Security Council upon his return. Ambassador Arima, Special Envoy of the Government of Japan for the Middle East, has met with political leaders of Egypt, Israel, and Palestinian Authority to urge all parties to realize an immediate ceasefire.

Japan deeply sympathizes with the innocent civilians who are suffering in Gaza. The people in Gaza require immediate humanitarian assistance, and Japan has announced its emergency assistance of 10 million dollars, of which 3 million dollars will be provided through UNRWA immediately.

All necessary humanitarian and economic aid should be allowed to go unhindered through the crossings. The crossings into Gaza need to be reopened under legitimate control, in order to allow necessary supplies to reach the population in need and to provide medical treatment for the injured.

Mr. President,

We believe that it is of paramount importance that the solution to the problem comes from the parties concerned, with the support from the regional and international community, not the other way around. Japan on its part will continue to play a constructive role to help the parties in their efforts to achieve peace.

In closing, I would like to renew Japan's commitment to the principles laid out in Security Council resolutions 1850 and 1860. A lasting peace will only be achieved through an enduring commitment to mutual recognition; freedom from violence, incitement and terror; and the two-state solution, building upon previous agreements and obligations. We sincerely hope that the political process will soon again be on track to realize a comprehensive, just and lasting peace.

Thank you