

SWEDEN



STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mr. Per Örnéus
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
34th plenary meeting

Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem
and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory:
draft resolution (A/ES-10/L.21) [5]

United Nations
New York

January 16, 2009

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

Mr. Chairman

To begin with Sweden fully aligns itself with the statement made by the Czech ambassador on behalf of the EU.

Sweden welcomes the adoption of the UNSCR 1860 and calls for its full and immediate implementation.

We strongly support the ongoing regional and international efforts to find a rapid solution to the crisis in accordance with 1860, including those of the Secretary General.

In this context we would also like to stress the need to reactivate the peace process and encourage inter-Palestinian reconciliation.

Sweden expresses its grave concern of the deepening humanitarian crisis.

The civilian population is subjected to untold suffering.

We are particularly concerned about the situation of the children, who constitute almost 60 percent of the population in Gaza.

Sweden condemns the Israeli attack on the UNRWA headquarter building in Gaza yesterday. It is unacceptable that UNRWA, the major UN actor in Gaza at the moment, is attacked. International humanitarian law clearly states that humanitarian and medical personnel must be protected at all times. As a result of the attack, UNRWA's ability to operate, including distributing well-needed food, medicines and fuel, has been severely affected.

Sweden strongly emphasizes that all civilians as well as wounded and sick, medical personnel and medical buildings must be protected in accordance with international humanitarian law.

Sweden urges all parties to the conflict to comply with international humanitarian law.

Thank you.