

PETITION presented by Broederlijk Delen, Pax Christi Vlaanderen, Jeugd en Vrede vzw, Kinderrechtenhuis, vzw Hannah (Herent).

TO: **Herman Van Rompuy**, President of the European Council, Wetstraat 175, 1048 Brussel

**TOWARDS A 'JUST PEACE' IN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE:  
NO PEACE WITHOUT INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE**

Dear Mister President of the European Council,

In November 2012 the violent conflict between Israel and the Palestinian armed groups threatened to drag the Middle East into a new tragedy. Thanks to international diplomatic pressure a new outright war in the Gaza strip was prevented. But how can we prevent further escalation which will set the entire region ablaze?

The European Union rightfully received the Nobel Prize for peace. The creation and the actions of the European Union have certainly contributed greatly to the upholding of peace in Europe. It turned former arch-enemies into good allies and proved that peace is not an illusion but really achievable.

We encourage the EU and its member states to commit themselves even more to a lasting and just peace which puts an end to the main causes of the conflict and the occupation of Palestinian territory. It is therefore of vital importance that the EU continues to defend the international humanitarian rights and the human rights both in word and deed. Justice and peace are closely connected. There is no peace without justice. There is no justice without peace.

The situation is complex, the obstacles are known and the positions of Israel and Palestine seem irreconcilable. However, the position of the international community is clear: the stalled peace talks have to be started up again and both sides have to respect international laws.

The EU and its member states therefore have to take the following actions:

- Exert pressure on Israel to lift the blockade on Gaza, to allow the export and import of raw materials and finished products, to normalize the traffic between the Gaza strip and the West Bank.
- Demand that the recently announced construction of new houses in Israeli settlements on the West Bank and in East Jerusalem be stopped.
- Stop all direct and indirect support of illegal Israeli settlements and take the necessary actions for this purpose, such as correct labeling of products originating from Israeli settlements, debar these products from bilateral agreements with the European Union and exert pressure on financial institutions in Europe not to finance the construction of illegal activities.
- Increase the support to Israeli and Palestinian peace efforts by providing financial and logistic support for activities focusing on peace education.

We make a strong appeal to the EU to assert its influence in order to achieve just and enduring peace in the region.

Name

Address

Signature

**[This petition is preferably signed online at: [http://bit.ly/petition2012\\_en](http://bit.ly/petition2012_en) ]**