



Statement from the President of the Anna Lindh Foundation on the situation in Gaza

Make war to give peace another chance. An illusion, and that theory takes on a tragic dimension when taking into consideration the heavy cost paid by Palestinian civil society in the carnage taking place in the siege of Gaza.

The Anna Lindh Foundation counts on its numerous Palestinian and Israeli institutions who joined the network with the precise hope that security, dignity, justice and freedom might one day combine and be expressed in the same way on the streets of Ramallah, Gaza, Tel Aviv or Sderot.

Today, these are the foundations of this commitment, and more widely the credibility of the Euro-Mediterranean's grand objectives have been put in the balance against the logic of force that Israel has decided to privilege. It is a logic of regression, which brings one of the worst answers to Israel's hopes for security, and risks to ruin the meagre achievements earned with difficulty over the last few years with the hope that peace could survive.

Of course words are trivial when only weapons rule. But the Anna Lindh Foundation, which is at the heart of the human construction of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, challenges the inevitability of hate, and calls for an urgent and extraordinary mobilisation of the 43 founding countries of the Union for the Mediterranean, to ensure an immediate and unconditional cease-fire takes place.

It is by the measure of this wholly assumed responsibility that the Union for the Mediterranean will find a meaning and a legitimacy in the eyes of our civil societies. Civil societies in total disarray and abandoned that can fall into the trap of any extremism or false prophets of uncertain futures written only on the tablets of confrontation and rupture.

Determined not to leave the Euro-Mediterranean space empty of self-expression and responsible involvement, the Anna Lindh Foundation has mobilised its network which counts more than 2000 civil society organisations on both sides of the Mediterranean. It has also contacted numerous international institutions, amongst them the Alliance of Civilisations set up by the United Nations, to remind the international community of its obligations in view of the total humanitarian crisis that the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians blocked in Gaza are facing.

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