

**THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION (EAFORD)**

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H.E. Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann
President of the 63rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly

March 4, 2009

Your Excellency Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann,

It is fortunate for the struggling people of the world and the cause of peace and justice to have you as President of UN General Assembly at the present moment in world history. You have made your mark and raised hopes from the very first speech in this capacity. The Palestinian people, in particular, are doubly fortunate to find a person of your integrity and belief in the right of people to live free from foreign domination at the helm when they were subjected to the criminal invasion of Gaza by Israel. We have no doubt that you had followed the events very closely and arrived at conclusions that best reflect your long-held beliefs.

We in EAFORD, an NGO with consultative status with UN, have of course followed those events, and concluded that it is high time that Israel and its political and military leaders should not remain immune from accountability for their actions, we decided to place a petition on the internet addressed to Your Excellency and member states of the United Nations calling for the creation, by the General Assembly, of a special tribunal to try Israel for any crimes committed during the invasion of Gaza. The response worldwide for the petition has been very supportive, as Your Excellency may see through visiting the site at <http://www.PetitionOnline.com/EAFORD09/petition.html> to view the petition and the response. We appreciate that some other avenues are available, such as national courts, but these avenues may be subjected to political pressure to deter them from proper action. Only a special tribunal will be able to deal effectively and responsibly with these crimes.

We appeal to you to take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that such court is created as soon as possible. No state should feel that it is beyond accountability, particularly in the field of international humanitarian law, the respect for which forms the cornerstone for the protection and security of civilians during armed conflicts.

Please accept the expression of our highest esteem and respect.

Yours respectfully,

Dr Anis Al-Qasem
Secretary General
EAFORD