

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

5 Route des Morillons, CP 2100. 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland
Telephone: (022) 788.62.33 Fax: (022) 788.62.45 e-mail: info@eaford.org
www.eaford.org

**A Letter of Appreciation to the European Parliament
Concerning its Endorsement of the Goldstone Report**

To Ms. Catherine Ashton, the European Union's High Representative for Foreign Policy and Security Affairs, Vice-President of the European Commission,

The International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the United Nations, applauds the resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 10 March 2010, which backs the findings of the UN Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict (the Goldstone Report) and urges its member states to “demand the implementation of the Goldstone Report’s recommendations and accountability for all violations of international law.”

Supporting the recommendations of the Goldstone Report increases the credibility and influence of the European Parliament in upholding international humanitarian and human rights standards and strengthens the foundation on which international justice and human rights defenders stand upon.

In view of the failure of many EU and UN member states to fulfill their respective obligation in this field, the measure adopted by the European Parliament paves the way to the longer term and future generations for whom the present is held in trust. The European Parliament can set an example in this direction should it resolve to withhold enforcement of the special agreement with Israel so long as Israel continues, as it presently does, to violate the human and national rights of the Palestinian people. Action like this will show that the EU no longer stands indifferent to such violations by Israel.

The universality of human rights cannot remain ink on paper for many of the victims of grave violations as it has been the tragic case for decades in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Human rights law exists not for itself but for the betterment of the world we share.

We at EAFORD appreciate and look forward to your continued support and follow-up to the Goldstone Report as a step in the direction toward accountability and a more mature exercise of collective responsibility against any forces that may threaten the future of humanity at large.

Those of us who have a voice owe it to those who have not.

In solidarity,

Mr. Abdalla Sharafeddin

President
EAFORD
15 March 2010

CC: President of the European Parliament