



To Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan,  
To Ms. Ruth Kahanoff, Ambassador of Israel to Japan,

25th August, 2014

### **Call for an Immediate Stop of Attacks on Gaza and Lifting of Blockade**

As a result of the bombing and attacks by Israel, more than 2,100 people have been killed in Gaza Strip. More than 10,000 people have been injured and hundreds of thousands of people have lost their houses. Most of the victims are ordinary citizens, including women and children. The people of Gaza, including women and children, are even now threatened by bombings. The Israeli bombings on civilian houses, hospitals and shelters, and the indiscriminate killings of civilians are clearly a war crime and an extremely inhumane action.

The Gaza Strip has been blockaded and forcibly divided for seven years since the conflict in 2007. The people of Gaza, most of whom are refugees without a home to return to, have been economically deadlocked, isolated, their human dignities violated, and furthermore their situations are still worsening.

On 23rd July, the Japanese Government abstained from a UN Human Rights Council resolution condemning Israel's attack on Gaza Strip. We protest against this decision to give an unspoken permission to the serious and ongoing human rights violation.

Moreover, while the Japanese Government has made a large financial support to Palestine, the fund is not being used to fundamentally change the situation of the people of Gaza, whose economy and infrastructure have been destroyed by the occupation and blockade and are forced to rely on financial support.

We, who value and respect human life and human rights, demand the Government of Israel to immediately stop the attack and lift the blockade on Gaza Strip.

We demand the Japanese Government to clearly raise a voice in the international community against the inhumane actions by Israel, to exercise its influence in order to lift the occupation of Palestine, and to refrain from security cooperation with Israel or providing support to Israel.

俣野尚子

Naoko Matano  
President  
YWCA of Japan

Mikako Nishihara

Mikako Nishihara  
General Secretary  
YWCA of Japan