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**Statement: Call for immediate Stop of All Violence and Occupation of Palestine**

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According to media coverage, multiple locations in “Israel” were attacked by Hamas combatants in 7th October, and immediately afterwards the Gaza Strip has been exposed to Israeli attacks, resulting in a large number of deaths and injuries. The YWCA of Japan is receiving this situation with great shock. Our thoughts are with those whose lives were taken violently, those who have been deprived of their families, friends, homes and livelihoods, and those whose lives are threatened and are living in the midst of horror this moment.

Military attacks against and killing of civilians is a war crime, which is unacceptable, regardless of any situation or reason. From the standpoint for calling for peace through non-violence, we call for an immediate stop to all violence, including the release of hostages taken to Gaza Strip and the bombing and military attacks including residential buildings, schools, Mosques and civilian institutions.

Behind the current situation lies the prolonged military occupation by Israel. Since hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were driven from their homes in 1948, the people of Palestine have been imposed division, and their basic human rights and dignity have been denied. Gaza Strip has been under blockade since 2007, and more than 2 million people have been forced to live under dire conditions, including limitation of freedom of movement and access to basic infrastructure. Through these years even while the temporary surge of attention caused by large-scale military attacks ceased, the human rights abuse against Palestinian people have been repeated daily, and escalated. Despite being repeatedly pointed out including by U.N. resolutions, the international community has allowed the clear violation of international law to continue.

Since Japan’s defeat in the Asia-Pacific War, the YWCA of Japan has continued to raise our voice calling for peace through non-violence, deeply embracing the voice of each and every person who have experienced the horror and injustice of war, and holding on to the regret for the history in which we were unable to stop the militarism and invasion by Japan. Also, we are working as a part of the Global YWCA movement, toward the realization of peace with justice in solidarity with the women in Palestine. The YWCA of Japan, from the above standpoint, calls for the immediate stop of all violence by all actors, and an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine.