

# BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK

Today, December 26, 2009,  
We stand, in silence, with peace-loving people around the world  
To commemorate the 1st anniversary of  
"Operation Cast Lead"  
And to support the over 1300 participants in the  
Gaza Freedom March

## **The Numbers**

Israel's 23-day attacks on Gaza, already besieged by Israel's blockade of vital supplies

- killed over 1,400 Palestinian children, women and men
- left 1,346 Gazan children without one or more of their parents
- left 100,000 people homeless
- destroyed 1/3 of the agricultural land
- denied 1.5 million people food, water, medical supplies, fuel, electricity, and basic human dignity

## **The Damage**

The UN Human Rights Council found that Israel

- deliberately targeted the civilian infrastructure in order to "put pressure" on Hamas,
- caused "disproportionate force and...great damage and destruction to civilian property and infrastructure, and suffering to civilian populations,"
- targeted hospitals, schools, water sources, and agricultural land for aerial and ground attacks with highly toxic and destructive weapons

## **The Aftermath**

The citizens of Gaza

- continue to suffer deepening deprivation initiated by the blockade, considered collective punishment by the UN Mission,
- face risk of permanent disability due to complications and inadequate follow-up and physical rehabilitation,
- continue to have no control over their borders, coastline, airspace, telecommunications, water, electricity or sewage facilities,
- have noted a spike in abnormalities in newborn babies

## **Actions to Take**

- **Sunday, December 27:** Attend the candlelight memorial at Union Square, Powell & Geary, San Francisco, 4pm
- **Thursday, December 31:** March across the Golden Gate Bridge, south end parking lot, 12 noon. No large signs, no flags
- **Every day:** Contact your elected representatives (see back) and ask them to end the siege of Gaza and the illegal occupation of Palestine!

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## TAKE ACTION NOW

Ask President Obama and your congressional representatives to end U.S. military aid to Israel and to join international, Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations in demanding an end to the blockade of Gaza.

**President Barack Obama**  
202-456-1111  
comments@whitehouse.gov

**Representative Barbara Lee**  
Washington Office - 202- 225-2661  
Oakland Office - 510-763-0370

**Senator Barbara Boxer**  
Washington Office - 202-224-3553  
San Francisco Office - 415-403-0100

**Senator Dianne Feinstein**  
Washington Office - 202-224-3841  
San Francisco Office - 415-393-0707

Bay Area Women in Black are Jews and allies who stand against militaristic and fundamentalist leadership in all countries, including our own. We wear black as a sign of mourning for all the Israeli, Palestinian and Iraqi lives that have been lost as a result of war, militarism and violence. As part of the international movement of Women in Black, we seek to transform women's mourning for the dead into a powerful refusal of the inevitability of war.

**Join us at the Grand Lake Theater every Saturday at noon to register your protest and your presence as we continue to urge an end to the U.S. military and financial support for Israel's disastrous occupation.**

The group with flags and signs supporting Israel is San Francisco Voice for Israel (VOI), a local group who oppose Bay Area Women in Black's (BAWIB) criticism of the policies of the Israeli government and military. BAWIB is not anti-Israel. BAWIB believes Israel's occupation is wrong and deprives Palestinians of basic human rights. BAWIB calls for ending the occupation and its violent effects on Israelis and Palestinians. The flyers distributed by VOI do not accurately reflect BAWIB's work.