

To:

Mr. Ismail Haniyeh, Hamas

Mr. Yehya Sinwar, Hamas

Mr. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani: Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar

Mr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Open letter: Please cherish life

Bussum, The Netherlands, 11 December 2023

Your Excellencies,

We are very shocked by the news from Gaza. According to Al Jazeera on November 29th, the Palestinian death toll in Gaza is at least 15,000. Including at least 6,150 children and 4,000 women. In addition, we have heard the call of the WHO informing us of the collapsing health system and their concerns with regard to infectious diseases in Gaza.

Nevertheless, we were also extremely shocked to hear of the killing of 1,200 Israeli civilians on October 7th and all those hostages being taken captive.

We are calling upon all parties to cherish life and to care for each other. In order to save the lives of the civilians, we call for a permanent ceasefire. We fear that the bombings in Gaza will continue, while the citizens can't flee because the Rafah border is closed. In addition, we hope that all hostages will be released and that clean water, food, and humanitarian aid will be provided to the citizens of Gaza.

Furthermore, we hope that the parties involved in this war will be supported by other countries involved, to work via peaceful means towards a sustainable and peaceful solution to the war. Local NGOs can play a role in this. In addition, we hope that the Secretary General of the United Nations can help. We support his work and his call for a ceasefire.



A better and fairer world for all of us

We hope to see soon: A World in Which All Children Can Play.

Peace and all the best wishes,

Anna Zanen, Platform Vrouwen en Duurzame Vrede, Netherlands

Chris Geerse, Vredesbeweging Pais, the Netherlands

Dr Guinness Madasamy, peace activist, India

Henk Baars, president of Kerk en Vrede, the Netherlands

Jakob de Jonge, chairperson The Hague Peace Projects, the Netherlands

Joke Oranje (Jobar), Oranjeconsult, the Netherlands

Lea Launokari, Women for Peace, Finland

Marika Lohi, Amandamaji ry., Finland

May-May Meijer, chair Peace SOS, the Netherlands

Nina Koevoets, Coordinator and trainer of Peace Power, Greece

Pim van den Bosch, Coalition Peace Missions without Weapons, Netherlands

Saeed Ahmad Jatt, President Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association, The Netherlands

Stephan Eshuis, employee at Amsterdams Vredes café, Netherlands

Stephanie Mbanzendore, Burundian Women for Peace and Development, NL- Burundi

Sviatoslav Zabelin, Socio-ecological union international, coordinator Russia

Tiny Hannink, Vrouwen voor Vrede Enschede, the Netherlands

Ulla Klötzer, Women Against Nuclear Power - Finland

Please address your correspondence via e-mail to: May-May Meijer, E: info@peacesos.nl