

**United Nations Security Council Resolution 1860
(8 January 2009)**



Israeli Ambassador to the UN, Gabriela Shalev (left) meets with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in the United Nations Security Council, January 8, 2009. (Photo: AP/John Marshall Mantel)

On January 8, 2009, following thirteen days of fighting between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, the United Nations passed a resolution aimed at ending this “Gaza War.” The resolution was adopted 14-0 with the United States abstaining. It called for an end to the fighting, protection of the Palestinian and Israeli civilian populations. It also called for “a lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can only be achieved by peaceful means.” The fighting had begun on 27 December when Israel launched a major military offensive in

response to months of Hamas rocket attacks upon Israeli civilians. The resolution stated the urgent tasks for international community

action including provision, arrangements and guarantees in Gaza to sustain a durable ceasefire, prevention of illicit trafficking in arms and ammunition, and to ensure the sustained reopening of crossing points on the basis of the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. Explaining the United States decision to abstain, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said that, while her Government had agreed with the goals and objectives of the resolution: “The United States thought it important to see the outcomes of the Egyptian mediation efforts in order to see what this resolution might have been supporting.” Still, she said, the United States believed that, by adopting the resolution, the Council had provided a road map for a sustainable, durable peace in Gaza. Prolonged violence broke out again between Hamas and Israel in November 2012 and in July 2014.

Ken Stein, July 2014

“The Security Council,

“Recalling all of its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 1397 (2002), 1515 (2003) and 1850 (2008),

“Stressing that the Gaza Strip constitutes an integral part of the territory occupied in 1967 and will be a part of the Palestinian state,

“Emphasizing the importance of the safety and well-being of all civilians,

“Expressing grave concern at the escalation of violence and the deterioration of the situation, in particular the resulting heavy civilian casualties since the refusal to

extend the period of calm; and *emphasizing* that the Palestinian and Israeli civilian populations must be protected,

“*Expressing* grave concern also at the deepening humanitarian crisis in Gaza,

“*Emphasizing* the need to ensure sustained and regular flow of goods and people through the Gaza crossings,

“*Recognizing* the vital role played by UNRWA in providing humanitarian and economic assistance within Gaza,

“*Recalling* that a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can only be achieved by peaceful means,

“*Reaffirming* the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure and internationally recognized borders,

“1. *Stresses* the urgency of and *calls for* an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire, leading to the full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza;

“2. *Calls for* the unimpeded provision and distribution throughout Gaza of humanitarian assistance, including of food, fuel and medical treatment;

“3. *Welcomes* the initiatives aimed at creating and opening humanitarian corridors and other mechanisms for the sustained delivery of humanitarian aid;

“4. *Calls on* Member States to support international efforts to alleviate the humanitarian and economic situation in Gaza, including through urgently needed additional contributions to UNRWA and through the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee;

“5. *Condemns* all violence and hostilities directed against civilians and all acts of terrorism;

“6. *Calls upon* Member States to intensify efforts to provide arrangements and guarantees in Gaza in order to sustain a durable ceasefire and calm, including to prevent illicit trafficking in arms and ammunition and to ensure the sustained re-opening of the crossing points on the basis of the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access between the Palestinian Authority and Israel; and in this regard, *welcomes* the Egyptian initiative, and other regional and international efforts that are under way;

“7. *Encourages* tangible steps towards intra-Palestinian reconciliation including in support of mediation efforts of Egypt and the League of Arab States as expressed in the 26 November 2008 resolution, and consistent with Security Council resolution 1850 (2008) and other relevant resolutions;

“8. *Calls for* renewed and urgent efforts by the parties and the international community to achieve a comprehensive peace based on the vision of a region where two democratic States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side in peace with secure and recognised borders, as envisaged in Security Council resolution 1850 (2008), and recalls also the importance of the Arab Peace Initiative;

“9. *Welcomes* the Quartet’s consideration, in consultation with the parties, of an international meeting in Moscow in 2009;

“10. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.”