

Calls for the immediate cessation of the military siege and bombing of the Gaza Strip and preparations for a ground invasion by the Israeli military.

We demand a halt to the Israeli military siege and bombing of the Gaza Strip, an immediate halt to preparations for a ground invasion, and an immediate ceasefire between the Israeli armed forces and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas).

On October 7, Hamas conducted a large-scale attack on Israel, resulting in the death of more than 1,000 people, including civilians, and the capture of many more as hostages. In retaliation, Israeli forces had completely surrounded the Gaza Strip and conducted air strikes killing over 2,200 people and reportedly displacing over 400,000 people from their homes as of October 14. Furthermore, on the night of October 12 (local time), the Israeli military demanded that 1.1 million residents in the northern part of the Gaza Strip evacuate within 24 hours, and is preparing for a large-scale ground invasion with the aim of "destroying Hamas".

We believe that attacks and abductions of civilians by Hamas should be strongly condemned as a violation of international humanitarian law. However, these actions do not justify the Israeli military's taking the lives of hundreds of people in the Gaza Strip, nor do they justify cutting off water, food, fuel, electricity, etc., and forcing people to starve. Above all, it should not be overlooked that the background of the current situation is Israel's long-standing occupation in violation of international law and in violation of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

The Israeli military is now trying to "solve" the problem of Palestine by pushing for a military invasion, turning a blind eye to its illegal occupation and history of violence in Palestine. If carried out, this will inevitably result in the loss of countless lives and seriously damage international peace. Not just that, as the UN Human Rights Council Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese fears, it could cause even greater damage to Palestinians than the massive Palestinian refugee crisis of 1948 (Nakba) when Israel was founded or the Israeli occupation of Gaza during the Third Middle East War of 1967 (Naksa).

For these reasons, we demand that Israel immediately halt its preparations for a ground invasion of the Gaza Strip and lift its siege of the enclave. We also call on the governments of UN member countries, including Japan, to refrain from supporting the Israeli military's retaliatory actions and to make diplomatic efforts to achieve an immediate ceasefire.

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Faculty Members, Emeritus Fellows, External Affiliates and PRIME Staff Concerned About the Deteriorating Situation in the Gaza Strip,

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