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## **Israeli Military attack on Gaza must cease**

The African Regional Organization of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa) expresses serious concern about the on-going attacks on Gaza by the Israeli military. Reports show that civilians, mostly children, women, the elderly and aid workers have been worst victims of these attacks unleashed on the Gaza Strip by the Israeli military since 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2014. These attacks have led to over 580 deaths and still counting as the military aggression from both sides continues.

Whilst we are aware that the Israeli military has claimed that its “Operation Protective Edge” is a tactical response to Hamas’ incessant rocket attacks, the nature of the Israeli targets leave much to be desired as civilians and residential areas have been at the receiving end of their attacks. Furthermore, we condemn the situation where houses, hospitals, schools and other social infrastructures are deliberately targeted by the Israeli military. These attacks have seriously undermined water, food and electricity supplies thereby triggering nutrition, hygiene and sanitation crises.

ITUC-Africa demands that the United Nations go beyond merely describing the Israeli assault on Gaza as “atrocious actions” to take urgent and firm action to achieve a cease fire. The international community must act now to prevent further escalation of the harrowing and sad humanitarian crises currently plaguing the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

We passionately call on the Israeli government and Hamas to cease hostilities. We demand that humanitarian agencies must be quickly mobilized and assisted so as to provide aid to the affected Palestinian civilian population.

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