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## CMEP to President Obama on Goldstone Report (November 5, 2009)

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

November 5, 2009

Dear Mr. President,

Churches for Middle East Peace supports the recommendation in the Goldstone Report that independent investigations into allegations of war crimes committed during "Operation Cast Lead" from December 2008 to January 2009 should be carried out by Israeli and Palestinian authorities. We support your administration's efforts to encourage such independent investigations and we urge you to continue to press Israel and the Palestinians to conduct them.

It is in the interest of people everywhere, in particular, in the interest of the United States and of those on both sides of the conflict that such serious allegations are credibly investigated and the results made public.

Investigations should be carried out in an impartial and transparent manner so that the subsequent findings do not undercut in any way ongoing U.S. efforts to restart negotiations leading to a comprehensive Middle East peace. We agree with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Michael Posner's statement to the UN Human Rights Council September 29 that "If undertaken properly and fairly, these [Palestinian and Israeli] reviews can serve as important confidence-building measures that will support the larger essential objective which is a shared quest for justice and lasting peace."

Sincerely,

Warren Clark  
Executive Director

James Fine  
Chair of the Board