

**Canadian Friends of Peace Now
Shalom Achshav Peace Foundation**

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NEWS

CFPN URGES RESTORATION OF GAZA CEASE-FIRE

TORONTO - November 14, 2012 - The worst fighting along the Israel-Gaza border since the cease-fire brokered in January 2009 threatens to drive the region back into full-scale conflict, Canadian Friends of Peace Now warned today.

With Israel facing a general election in January, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud-led government is under intense pressure from residents in the Negev to take all military action necessary to suppress the Katyusha rocket fire reining down on them from inside Gaza in recent days.

The Palestinian militants have their own political calculations. With President Mahmoud Abbas bound for the United Nations later this month in a diplomatic bid likely to win observer state status from the General Assembly, his Hamas rivals controlling the Gaza Strip seem eager to one-up the West Bank leader.

Whether Hamas has been unable or unwilling to control the even more extreme Palestinian militant groups that have fired most of the rockets, Hamas cannot claim innocence: its own fighters have joined in the attacks.

Fortunately, Israel has military means short of a ground offensive that can pressure Hamas into restoring the cease-fire. Operation Cast Lead, launched in December 2008, took a heavy toll in Palestinian civilian deaths and gave Israel a diplomatic black eye from which it still hasn't recovered.

While restoration of the cease-fire is the immediate task, the real imperative is the revival of the moribund final-status negotiations.

For further information, please call 416-322-5559.

CFPN is a Zionist organization that is dedicated to enhancing the State of Israel's security through peace and to supporting Israel's Peace Now movement. CFPN has chapters in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa.