

Reykjavík, 14 November 2006.

Ms. Miryam Shomat, the Israeli ambassador to Iceland.

The Icelandic parliament, the Althing, is unanimously of the view that the Palestinian nation has the right to self-determination and the state of Israel the right to exist within its internationally acknowledged borders. The Althing has always emphasised the need for a peaceful resolution of the conflict between the two nations in accordance with international law and UN resolutions. The occupation of Palestinian territories must come to an end

Samfylkingin (the Social Democratic Alliance) has repeatedly put forward motions and started discussions in Parliament on the issue of peace in the Middle East. The party supports the Palestinians in their struggle for freedom and self-determination. Samfylkingin condemns violence of any kind and encourages and supports the active search for peace. Samfylkingin condemns acts of terrorism, no matter in whose name they are committed.

We strongly condemn the mass murders committed by the Israeli army in Beit Hanoun on the 8th of November 2006 where 18 people were killed, mostly women and children. Those murders were the direct consequence of the long lasting violence of the occupation of the Israeli army, a foul act that calls for the condemnation of all civilised people around the world.

The illegal military actions of the Israeli government against innocent civilians are not only committed against Palestinians but also against neighbouring countries. Last summer the people of Lebanon suffered horrific attacks by the Israeli army where the army used cluster bombs, which seem to be mainly aimed at innocent civilians.

The Parliamentary party group of Samfylkingin cannot overstate the importance it places on the need for states and nations to act in accordance with international law, the Geneva Conventions and the resolutions of the Security Council of the United Nations. We use this opportunity to convey our strong stance on this issue and in support of the struggle of the Palestinian people.

We demand that the Israeli government halts immediately its warfare against the civilian population of Palestine and concentrates on a peaceful resolution of the conflict which is without a doubt a consequence of almost 40 years of occupation.

On behalf of the parliamentary group of Samfylkingin,
Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir,
Party Leader of the Social Democratic Alliance.