



Internationella Kvinnoförbundet  
för Fred och Frihet  
Women's International League  
for Peace and Freedom

Stockholm, November 23, 2009

To:

Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt  
Foreign Minister Carl Bildt  
High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy,  
Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union Javier Solana

On November 17, 2009 The Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt, on behalf of the European Union, rejected to support the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' decision to bring the issue of the establishment of an independent Palestinian State in the borders of June 4, 1967, to the Security Council. The EU decision undermines an important and serious possible step to be taken to end the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

The fact that Minister Carl Bildt deemed the decision as "immature" must be noted with great concern. Especially as the Palestinian people's inalienable rights to self-determination have been debated within the UN since 1948, and countless resolutions have been adopted supporting the right of the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. The Security Council has, in Resolution 242, affirmed the "respect for and acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every State in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force;" as well as "guaranteeing the territorial inviolability and political independence of every State in the area, through measures including the establishment of demilitarized zones".

All efforts towards peace through a two-state solution also reinforce these resolutions. The Swedish Foreign Minister's Statement, on behalf of the EU, is therefore a huge step backwards on the road to peace in the Middle East. The European Union should instead seize this opportunity to further the efforts towards a Middle East Peace, built on the fundamental understanding of a two-state solution.

An important chance has now been lost - to support a peaceful effort by the Palestinian people to bring their struggle for a free and independent state before the UN Security Council.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, WILPF, calls on the European Union, to recant this statement and instead resume efforts to implement decades of United Nations decisions and resolutions aimed at building peace for all in the region.

For Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, WILPF

Kerstin Grebäck  
President WILPF International

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President Swedish Section of WILPF

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The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is an international Non Governmental Organization (NGO) with national sections, covering all continents with an international secretariat based in Geneva, and a New York office focused on the work of the United Nations. Since its establishment in 1915, WILPF has brought together women from around the world who are united in working for peace by non-violent means, promoting political, economic and social justice for all.