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Mr Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations

Cam/Com/TN-km

5 January 2009

Gaza Conflict

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

I am writing to express the deep concern of the ITUC at the current conflict in Gaza. Along with the terrible human cost, with some 100 innocent civilians killed and many more injured, the continued fighting constitutes a major setback to efforts to bring about a just and permanent peace settlement, through negotiations involving Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

At its founding Congress (Vienna, 1 – 3 November 2006), the ITUC adopted the following:

“Congress declares that a comprehensive peace between Israel and Palestine based on the existence of two sovereign, independent and viable states requires renewed international attention and support as a matter of highest and urgent priority.”

The United Nations clearly has a key role to play in action to bring this comprehensive peace into being and the ITUC, with its Israeli and Palestinian member organisations, fully supports the UN in this endeavour. We also recognize the important influence which member states of the UN can bring to bear in relation to the parties to the conflict, both in ending the fighting and in achieving the full implementation of relevant UN Resolutions.

The UN and its specialised agencies also have crucially important roles in delivery and coordination of urgent and much-needed humanitarian assistance to those affected by the fighting. The ITUC, with its Palestinian affiliate the PGFTU, has also launched an appeal for humanitarian aid.

At a moment of enormous suffering among civilian populations and of acute threat to regional and international peace, the ITUC would urge you strongly to exercise the full authority of your leadership and of the UN to bring about an immediate ceasefire and to

open the way for renewed impetus to the peace process, to which all UN member states should stand ready to contribute.

The ITUC remains committed to doing all we can to contribute to the realization of these objectives.

Yours sincerely,

General Secretary