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## STATEMENT ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN OCCUPIED PALESTINE

Over the last two weeks, the blatant aggression of the apartheid armed forces of the Israel has led to the injury of hundreds of Palestinians and the death of scores of others including women and children. This aggression has been in furtherance of Israel's objective of annexing more Palestinian lands in occupied Jerusalem in flagrant violation of international law.

Over the last 24 hours the situation in Palestine especially on the Gaza strip has degenerated into a full scale war, with the Israeli air force launching close to one hundred raids.

The Socialist Forum of Ghana (SFG) insists that the root cause of the current escalation is the brutal occupation of Palestine by the forces of Zionism with the active support of the imperialist powers. The occupation has led to the blatant violations of the rights of the people of Palestine. They have been dispossessed of their lands; thrown into exile, dumped into prison without charge or trial and murdered on the flimsiest of excuses.

There can be no solution to the question of Palestine without a comprehensive resolution of the issue of Zionist occupation in all its ramifications. Consequently, the SFG insists on respect for the June 1967 borders of Palestine, the unconditional return of Palestinian refugees, the release of all Palestinian political prisoners and an end to the illegal annexation of Palestinian lands.

The SFG calls for an immediate end of hostilities and a quick return to the negotiation table to deal with all outstanding issues. In making this call, we are mindful of the fact that over the years Israel has flatly refused to abide by agreements (including the Oslo Accord) reached with the participation of international brokers.

We insist that only a full commitment to agreements reached between Palestine and Israel can lead to lasting peace in Palestine and the Middle East.

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