

Note: If you want to sign onto this letter, please email Abby Yanow directly, abbyyanow@hotmail.com. Ask her to sign you on and give her your name and address.
Thank you!

An Open Letter to Senator Kerry

We, residents of the Commonwealth, share the world's concern for the grave humanitarian crisis in Gaza and request that you introduce an action in the Senate similar to that taken by Representative John Olver and 63 of his fellow Congressmen, directed to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The request calls for opening the border crossings between Israel and Gaza for the unimpeded flow of humanitarian aid, and for the transportation of those needing medical treatment. The letter to Secretary Clinton further asks for a report to the describing actions undertaken.

We are sure you are aware of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza: children traumatized by the war; a ravaged infrastructure with 20,000 residential buildings bombed; farmland destroyed; over 1500 people killed and at least 5500 wounded. The vast majority of both the dead and the wounded are civilians: about a third of these are children.

Some 400,000 people lack water. Many more lack electricity and heating fuel. The people of Gaza may be safe from direct violence, but they still cannot meet their basic needs. U.N.W.R.A. estimates that the needs of the Palestinians in Gaza require a minimum of 500-600 trucks of aid each day before the war. But despite the recent overwhelming destruction, barely 125 are getting through now.

This catastrophic state of affairs and our effort to renew our moral standing in the world make it imperative for the US to ensure open access of border crossings - particularly the Karni crossing, through which the largest trucks and thus the largest amount of medical, food and supply-aid can pass. The critically wounded and ill must be allowed out for treatment. This is the one and only way to pave peace with justice for Israelis and Palestinians.

We look forward to your prompt action on this matter.

Respectfully,
The undersigned:

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