



Rio Group Declaration on the Gaza strip situation

The Governments of the Rio Group Express their deep preoccupation on the situation of violence that prevails in the Gaza strip by the bombardments with excessive use of force carried out since 27th December by the Israeli army, and express their rejection of rockets firings to Israeli territory from the Gaza strip.

The Rio Group calls upon the involved parties to immediately cease military actions, to reestablish the truce as rapidly as possible; to reengage in dialogue to search a peaceful solution to their controversies with strict adherence to International Law and to the principles of the United Nations' Chart; and to fully respect human rights and humanitarian international law.

The Rio Group accompanies the efforts being undertaken within the Security Council of the Organization of the United Nations with the aim of considering the adoption of urgent measures, and expresses their support and trust in the mediation efforts of neighboring countries as a proper channel to the reestablishment of conditions leading towards a durable and mutually acceptable solution.

The member States of the Rio Group convey their condolences to the families of victims, and to the wounded in these regrettable events.

Mexico City, December 30th 2008.

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