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COMMITTEE

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF
NORTH AMERICA

ARMENIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF
MAJOR SUPERIORS OF MEN'S
INSTITUTES

CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
COMMON GLOBAL MINISTRIES BOARD

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN AMERICA

FRANCISCAN FRIARS (OFM)
ENGLISH SPEAKING CONFERENCE,
JPIC COUNCIL

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL LEGISLATION

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE
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MARYKNOLL MISSIONERS

MENNONITE CENTRAL
COMMITTEE

MORAVIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COMMON GLOBAL MINISTRIES BOARD

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GENERAL BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY
GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES:
WOMEN'S DIVISION

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

November 5, 2009

Dear Mr. President,

Churches for Middle East Peace supports the recommendation in the Goldstone Report that independent investigations into allegations of war crimes committed during "Operation Cast Lead" from December 2008 to January 2009 should be carried out by Israeli and Palestinian authorities. We support your administration's efforts to encourage such independent investigations and we urge you to continue to press Israel and the Palestinians to conduct them.

It is in the interest of people everywhere, in particular, in the interest of the United States and of those on both sides of the conflict that such serious allegations are credibly investigated and the results made public.

Investigations should be carried out in an impartial and transparent manner so that the subsequent findings do not undercut in any way ongoing U.S. efforts to restart negotiations leading to a comprehensive Middle East peace. We agree with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Michael Posner's statement to the UN Human Rights Council September 29 that "If undertaken properly and fairly, these [Palestinian and Israeli] reviews can serve as important confidence-building measures that will support the larger essential objective which is a shared quest for justice and lasting peace."

Sincerely,

Warren Clark
Executive Director

James Fine
Chair of the Board