

The Peoples' Peace Campaign Jerusalem

H.E. Antonio Bassolino
Napoli - Italy

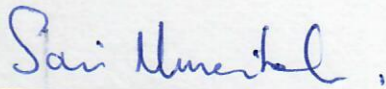
Your Excellency,

It is with great regret that we find ourselves in the need to address this letter to you. As you are well aware, the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories has deteriorated significantly over the last 48 hours. The Israeli military has now imposed a 24-hour curfew on almost the entirety of the West Bank, and there is a real threat to enter the Gaza Strip as well. Moreover, the Israeli Ministry of Interior has taken a decision to refuse entry to all our international friends who have been attempting to enter the country to participate in the Human Chain over the past few days. As a result, the dates we had prepared to hold the Human Chain now look impossible, and we have been forced to postpone the action until further notice.

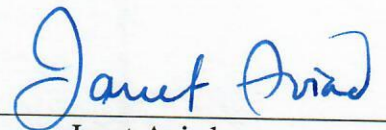
We fear that your dignity, and our own, would suffer irremediably if you were insulted in the same way as your compatriots at the airport in Tel Aviv. Consequently, we find it would be more appropriate, and safer, to delay your visit until a later date, by which time the Israeli government will hopefully have become more helpful to the cause of peace.

We realize that this will come as a disappointment to you; it obviously is a great disappointment to us, and to all those who worked on the initiative. We hope nevertheless to see you in Jerusalem soon in better circumstances.

Cordially,



Sari Nusseibeh



Janet Aviad