

TEMA/TÍTULO: Poner fin al bloqueo de la Franja de Gaza

PROPONENTE: Newland F. Smith III

PÁGINA CYC:

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- 1 *Se resuelve*, con la aprobación de la Cámara de \_\_\_\_\_ que la 76<sup>a</sup> Convención General de la  
 2 Iglesia Episcopal pida al Presidente y al Congreso de los Estados Unidos que presione al Estado  
 3 de Israel para que ponga fin al bloqueo de la Franja de Gaza, permitiendo así el acceso libre y sin  
 4 restricciones a toda asistencia humanitaria; el regreso al comercio normalizado, y levantar la  
 5 prohibición de materiales educativos y de construcción.  
 6

EXPLANATION:

Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip with a population of 1.5 million, half of whom are children, is now in its second year. Rashid Khalidi captures well the plight of these Gazans in these words, "Fuel, electricity, imports, exports and the movement of people in and out of the Strip have been slowly choked off, leading to life-threatening problems of sanitation, health, water supply and transportation." (The Voice: Newsletter of Friends of Sabeel - North America, March, 2009). In its October 31, 2007 letter to President Bush, the Chicago Faith Coalition on Middle East Policy urged that the President "demand that Israel's government fulfill its obligation as an occupying power under international humanitarian and human rights law to ensure the welfare of the Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip, notably its obligation to ensure the supply of essential necessities such as electrical power and to allow the movement of people and goods." Almost two years later, Israel still has yet to end this crippling blockade. The Free Gaza Movement in its Open Letter to President Obama, dated June 3, 2009, on the eve of his trip to Egypt to give his major speech to the Muslim world, wrote, "A man-made disaster continues to devastate the people of Gaza; due to Israel's ongoing hermetic closure of the Gaza Strip over 80% of the population there require food assistance just in order to survive. We hope your speech tomorrow in Egypt is successful but, at a minimum, you must use your privilege to demand and secure open access to Gaza for all international humanitarian, reconstruction, and developmental supplies." Finally Sara Roy, child of holocaust survivors and a leading authority on the Gazan economy, from her piece, "The Peril of Forgetting Gaza," that appeared in the Harvard Crimson, June 2, 2009, "Gaza is an example of a society that has been deliberately reduced to a state of abject destitution, its once productive population transformed into one of aid-dependent paupers ... Recently I spoke with some friends in Gaza and the conversations were profoundly disturbing ... The feeling of abandonment among people appears complete, understood perhaps in their growing inability to identify with any sense of possibility. The most striking was this comment: 'It is no longer the occupation or even the war that consumes us but the realization of our own irrelevance.' ... What looms is no less than the loss of entire generation of Palestinians. And if this happens - perhaps it already has - we shall all bear the cost."

BALLOT RESULTS:

*Endorser(s):* The Rev. John E. Kitagawa, The Rev. Robert L. Sessum