



1 June, 2010

Statement by the United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, Dr. Jorge Sampaio, following the Israeli attack on Gaza relief ships

The United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations is deeply shocked by the recent events of inexplicable and disproportionate violence, leading to the death and injury of civilians on board a fleet of ships taking humanitarian aid to Gaza, the blockade of which continues to cause unjust suffering to its 1.5million inhabitants.

The United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations appeals to the Government of Israel to cooperate in a full and prompt clarification of the facts and calls for an end to the unbearable blockade on Gaza

In response to this worrying act of extremism, the High Representative appeals to the international community to mobilise in support for peace in the Middle East, as an urgent goal and the only way to eradicate violence, guarantee respect for the international law, and the security and the right of the two peoples to live side by side in equal dignity.

(Unofficial revised translation from Portuguese)