# Asian Parliamentary Assembly
## Secretary General


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**Date: 26 July 2014**

**H.E. Mr. Jose de Venecia, Jr.**
**Founding Chairman and Co-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the ICAPP**

**Excellency,**

A serious human tragedy is happening these days in Gaza. Thousands of innocent civilians, particularly women and children, are subjected to brutal collective punishment based on arbitrary and political verdict of the Israeli regime. The magnitude of atrocities and the large scale of violence which are taking place in Gaza are inconceivable. In the absence of effective regional and international measures to the contrary, this tragedy is repeating itself from time to time.

This situation is posing a defying challenge not only to the efficiency and reliability of international organizations concerned, but also calls to question our common cause of promoting peace and protecting human dignity. Last year the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolutions to curb violence and extremism in the world. Other international organizations, including the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) which represents 41 Asian Parliaments, followed the suit by resolutions and initiatives aimed at restraining violence and extremism in their respective regions and beyond.

The extreme acts of violence which are exerted against civilians in Gaza are in sheer disregard of our resolutions and in contradiction with our shared visions and missions for a peaceful world. We cannot remain indifferent to such a disparagement. Therefore, I am writing to urge Your Excellency to utilize, individually and collectively, all available ways and means to help bringing the human catastrophe in Gaza to an end. This has to be done sooner rather than later.

The APA is ready and willing to collaborate hand- in-hand with ICAPP in any joint initiative, inter-parliamentary or otherwise, to restore peace in Gaza and protect the rights of innocent civilians there. Such initiatives may include, but not limited to, joint statements on denunciation of indiscriminate violence in Gaza and declaration of support and sympathy with Palestinian people; holding special meetings to address the critical situation in Gaza; dispatching parliamentary and diplomatic missions to the region; and collaboration on providing assistance to meeting the dire needs of the injured civilians.

**M.H. Nejad Hossienian**

**APA Secretary-General**


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