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HU165681.1 Palais des Nations

**The Coordinating Council calls for solidarity with UNRWA and
other UN staff in Gaza and launches a collection of funds.**

At its meeting on January 14, the Coordinating Council unanimously decided to show its solidarity with the UN staff in connection with the events in Gaza.

As the Secretary-General has said "I [we] am angered and deeply worried by the threat of the core protection under which the UN is operating, the UN flag. Even an UNRWA school designated as shelter was unable to offer sanctuary to civilians fleeing the fighting". The Secretary-General has demanded a thorough investigation of the incidents and the punishment of those responsible for these appalling acts and has stressed the urgency of allowing the people of Gaza to have safe access to food, income, and services.

Accordingly, the Coordinating Council is organizing a demonstration of solidarity on Thursday 22 January 2009 from noon to 2 pm inside the Palais des Nations. It is also carrying out a collection drive for the benefit of all those who have suffered.

The Coordinating Council invites UN staff members (including colleagues from other international organizations) to underline their solidarity with all those affected by the tragic events in Gaza, especially UN staff members serving there.

The Council also expresses its full support for the recent UN Human Rights Council and Security Council resolutions and the efforts of the Secretary-General with regard to Gaza.

In order to manifest its concrete support at this moment, the Coordinating Council has decided to carry out an urgent collection of funds to help those who have suffered and families in distress and to support the efforts of the UN and other international organizations in Gaza.

Solidarity demonstration:

**Thursday 22 January 2009 - noon to 2 pm at the Palais des
Nations ("Cour d'honneur")**

**Your contribution is welcome at the following account (UBS)
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