



The Most Reverend Desmond M Tutu, O.M.S.G. D.D. F.K.C.
Anglican Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town

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The Prime Minister of Turkey
Mr Recep Tayyip Erdogan

Dear Mr Erdogan

Our communication on this occasion comes to you with our greetings of peace and well wishes. We have been greatly encouraged by the support that the Turkish people and government have given to the Palestinian people, especially have we been delighted that Turkey has supported the peace efforts in Palestine/Israel by providing a base for the flotilla which took humanitarian supplies to Palestine.

You have renewed our resolve to seek for a peaceful negotiated settlement between the people of Palestine and Israel by your public condemnation of the violent attack by Israel on the flotilla in May 2010. We regard your pronouncements as the right one and a declaration that matters of conflict between nations can be settled only through peaceful negotiated talks amongst opposing groups.

We are, however concerned at the escalation of the conflict between the Turkish and the Kurdish peoples in which innocent young people, from both sides, are losing their lives. We know from experience that no-one can emerge as the victor in such a conflict. Likewise in the conflict between the Palestinians and the Israelis no-one can emerge as the victors. Peaceful negotiations are the only lasting solution to the problems in the Middle-East. We are firmly of the view that the Kurdish question can likewise be resolved through peaceful negotiations with the genuine leadership of the Kurdish people.

We want to appeal to you as the political head of Turkey, to use your office and your influence to bring a lasting end to the conflict in your Country. This could serve as a springboard to seek a similar resolution of the problems in the other parts of the Middle-East. History will remember you for such a contribution - like history so eloquently acknowledges Mr. Nelson Mandela for the peace he brought about in South Africa through peaceful means. You can earn the same acknowledgment and honour in the annals of history.

KHRAG a human rights organisation in South Africa is prepared to help you in that initiative and assist in mobilising international support for the peaceful resolution of the Kurdish question in your Country.

We believe that history has afforded you a unique position to make a lasting difference to the lives of the ordinary people in the Middle East - ordinary people who have been suffering for centuries. We urge you to rise to the occasion and take up the challenge that history has thrust on you.

We look forward to your favourable response.

God bless you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Desmond Tutu', followed by several horizontal strokes that serve as a flourish or underline.

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu