



## Asian Mayors Forum

Asia For Citizens, Integration For a Better Life

*Secretary General*

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Permanent Secretariat

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### **Statement by the Secretary General of the Asian Mayors Forum on Ceasefire Deal in Gaza**

As January 18 in some countries including Iran is marked as the day for solidarity with Gaza and with a ceasefire deal announced to take force on Sunday January 19, Asian Mayors Forum acknowledges the agreement as a critical step toward de-escalating violence and restoring a semblance of peace in the region.

While we welcome this temporary halt to hostilities, we must also underscore the urgent need to address the root causes of the conflict and the profound suffering endured by the Palestinian people. Fifteen months of attacks has resulted in devastating loss of tens of thousands of lives, widespread destruction, and untold human suffering in Gaza.

The international community must not turn a blind eye to the disproportionate use of force, the targeting of civilian infrastructure, and the systemic violations of international law, which have been widely documented and condemned by international courts. These actions bear the hallmarks of collective punishment and raise serious concerns about potential crimes against humanity and genocide.

Asian Mayors Forum stands in solidarity with the Palestinian people, who have endured decades of occupation, displacement, and systemic oppression. We call for an immediate end to the blockade of Gaza, the cessation of illegal settlements in the West Bank, and the full recognition of the rights of Palestinians to self-determination, dignity, and justice.

This ceasefire must not be seen as an end but as a beginning. The international community, including regional and global powers, must take decisive action to hold the Zionist regime accountable for violations of international law and ensure that such cycles of violence are not repeated. Furthermore, we call upon the global community to provide humanitarian aid and support for the reconstruction of Gaza, prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable.

Asian Mayors Forum remains committed to promoting peace, justice, and human rights across the region and the world.

**Hamidreza Gholamzadeh**

**Secretary General**