

**Stop the Outrageous War  
Against Lebanon!**

**To the International Peace Movements and  
Academic Communities**

The world community has been highly alarmed by the Israeli all-out war against Lebanese communities and civilians. The Israeli military operations, as reported by the news media, have been totally disproportionate as a response to the capture of two fighting Israeli soldiers by the Hezbollah. The continuation of these Israeli military operations, tacitly supported by the USA, represents a collective punishment of the Lebanese population, a devastation of Lebanese villages and cities and an unprecedented destruction of the basic means of life. Not only were hundreds of civilians killed, but hundreds of thousands were also turned into homeless refugees. The tragedy inflicted on the village of Qana is but the latest in a series of atrocities. The indiscriminate rocket attacks by the Hezbollah against civilian targets in northern Israel have in turn caused scores of casualties and forced tens of thousands of Israeli citizens to flee from their homes. Attacks on civilians are always illegal.

This brutal war in Lebanon represents an outright assault on the values of human life, justice, dignity and security. We invoke the long-established principles of International Humanitarian Law that protect civilians in time of war, and ask all members of the international community to honour these principles and do everything in their power to stop this war.

**INES considers with great concern the grave consequences of the on-going military operations in Lebanon and calls for an immediate and unconditional cease fire, the withdrawal of Israeli military forces from Lebanon and the establishment of a peace keeping force with a UN mandate as first steps to peace negotiations between the involved parties.**

**Executive Committee of INES, August 1, 2006**