

fidh

Fédération internationale des ligues des droits de l'Homme

ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE NON GOUVERNEMENTALE AYANT STATUT CONSULTATIF AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES, DE L'UNESCO,
DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE ET D'OBSERVATEUR AUPRES DE LA COMMISSION AFRICAINE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME ET DES PEUPLES

International Federation
for Human Rights

Federación Internacional
de los Derechos Humanos

الغدرالية الدولية لحقوق الانسان

Open Letter

To Ariel Sharon, Prime Minister of State of Israel

Monday November 22, 2004

Excellency,

The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), supports the announcement made by the Palestinian authorities that elections shall be held in the Palestinian Territories within sixty days after the death of the President of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), in conformity with the Palestinian Basic Law.

The FIDH urges the Israeli authorities to undertake all the necessary measures to allow the Palestinian people of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip to elect their new leaders, in the framework of free, fair and plural elections.

The organization of free and fair elections should provide the possibility for all Palestinians, living in the Palestinian Territories occupied by Israel in 1967, i.e the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, to participate fully in the electoral process (including through candidature, campaigning and balloting) before and on January the 9th 2005, to elect a new President of the PNA.

The FIDH deems it necessary that the regularity of these forthcoming elections, including the conditions under which they are organized and held, be monitored by international observers. FIDH requests that the Israeli authorities allow full and free access, through Israeli ports, for such observers to the Palestinian Territories and that such observers be facilitated in carrying out their tasks through being allowed freedom of movement.

Accordingly, the FIDH asks the Israeli authorities to take all necessary measures, in particular the withdrawal of military forces and other related impediments from the Palestinian towns and villages, an end to military incursions which will directly hamper the electoral process in any way, and the removal of all restrictions on freedom of movement (including through dismantling military checkpoints and facilitating free passage through those checkpoints) in order to allow the Palestinians to physically organize and participate in the electoral campaign, which must be launched by the 27th of December and consequently, to have the opportunity to express their vote, on the 9th of January 2005.