

## Note regarding Forensic Architecture's Introductory Statement

1. Israeli forces did not attack Palestinians generally in the conflict earlier this year. They attacked Hamas and other terrorists in Gaza and their weapons, equipment and facilities, after these terrorists started firing thousands of rockets at Israeli civilians. Since these terrorists usually operate in residential areas, unfortunately some civilians were also killed and damage was done to some civilian property - despite strenuous efforts by the Israeli forces to avoid this, often forgoing important military advantages. However, at least half and probably more of those killed as a result of the Israeli air strikes were terrorists. Additional Palestinian deaths resulted from missiles launched by the terrorists themselves falling short in Gaza.
2. Israel's bombing did not produce environmental disasters or earthquakes. Israel did bomb tunnels built by the terrorists (often using child slave labour) and the collapse of the tunnels damaged some roads and buildings above them. In one case explosives stored by terrorists in a tunnel exploded, causing a row of houses to collapse. But this was not an earthquake. By contrast, arson by Hamas and other terrorists, including incendiary balloons and forest fires, has caused and is causing extensive environmental damage in Israel. Further environmental damage was caused by Palestinians burning tyres in Gaza to make it difficult for Israeli forces to see whether Palestinians massing near the border were civilians or terrorists.
3. Israel did not target agricultural storage facilities. It targeted terrorist facilities, some of which may have used or been disguised as agricultural storage facilities. And this did not produce "massive airquakes" (whatever they are) nor clouds of toxic fumes covering entire residential areas.
4. There was no ethnic cleansing of Palestinian neighbourhoods at this time. There were violent riots by Arabs in Israel attacking Jews, torching buildings owned by Jews and seeking to ethnically cleanse Jews from mixed neighbourhoods. The Israeli police used teargas to suppress these riots, as any police force would, not to ethnically cleanse Arabs from their neighbourhoods. There is a pending legal case in which Jewish owners of some property in an area of Jerusalem from which Jews were ethnically cleansed in 1948 are seeking to evict 8 Palestinian families, on the ground that 4 of the families have failed to pay rent due under their tenancies and the other 4 are squatters without any tenancies. The property in question has been owned by Jewish organisations since 1875. However, no evictions resulting from these proceedings have yet taken place.
5. The complex conflict in the Middle East bears no relation to the Black liberation struggle. It is a conflict between two nations who each have longstanding links to the land – the Jewish people who have a history and presence in the land going back over 3000 years and the Arab people who colonised it over 1000 years ago. This bears no comparison to the evil of slavery (of which Jews were also victims) and the wholly unjustifiable discrimination against blacks that continued after the abolition of slavery.