

**Ambassador Richard W. Murphy (Chairman - UNRWA)** has served with the State Department in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan. From 1983-1989 he served as Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs. During that period he was particularly active in the Israeli-Arab peace process. He has received the President's Distinguished Service Award three times and the State Department's Superior Honor Award twice.

Ambassador Murphy verbalized the horrific extent of the formidable disaster in the Gaza, the worst since the war began. It is absolutely unimaginable.

In 42 years Israel has broken so many resolutions. The international laws need to find a way to be implemented. The Security Council has addressed issues of the necessity of allowing free movement of people, goods and supplies. Israel controls access to everything and so must be made accountable for human rights violations. The Palestinians are now being kept at a starving level. There are no light bulbs, no books. People have a right to survive.

Moral support is needed as well as tremendous financial support. The Palestinian Authority would never stand in the way of money reaching Gaza to heal the wounds and feed the hungry. There is an immediate need for 3 million dollars. UNRWA has been working alongside these Palestinian refugees in the Middle East for almost as long as the problem has existed. Today, in three out of UNRWA's five fields of operation -- in Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza -- the lives of hundreds of thousands of ordinary Palestinians have been ruined by events not of their making. Donor governments have been doing their best but far too little money has become available for essential and life-saving needs.

The Friends of UNRWA Association has launched the [2009 Gaza Humanitarian Appeal](#), a major funding campaign directed to humanitarian assistance for emergency medical and food relief, which is urgently needed by Palestinian refugees in Gaza in response to the rising humanitarian crisis. As the conflict in Gaza intensifies, the situation of the Palestinian refugees is becoming increasingly dire. Since December 27<sup>th</sup>, UNRWA has: distributed basic food, water and clothing to the 1.5 million Gaza residents in need; provided shelter for thousands of Palestinians in UNRWA schools and shelters; supplied medicines, blood and generator fuel for hospitals and public institutions.

Since December 27<sup>th</sup>, UNRWA has been one of the only organizations capable of distributing humanitarian aid and has been responsible for the distribution of materials donated from various organizations, institutions, and governments. To read the Friends of UNRWA Association report about the ongoing humanitarian crisis,

The Friends of UNRWA Association is asking the private sector to generously donate to an emergency humanitarian appeal to provide critical humanitarian assistance such as temporary housing, supplies, medical and food relief. Help is urgently needed in order for UNRWA to provide emergency assistance. The mission of the Friends of UNRWA Association is to support the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine refugees in the Middle East. The Friends of UNRWA Association is a non-profit organization that supports the work of UNRWA for the benefit of Palestine refugees. The goal is to raise private sector funds within the United States to help refugees help themselves.

There is a hesitation by the Arab community to talk about Islamic extremism and CIA activity where they should speak up. The Arab community, unfortunately, does not trust organizations affiliated with the UN to deliver monies to be of most help to the situation and tend to send money directly to villages in GAZA. The root cause of this is partly due to the impression the UN has given the impression to favor Israel. The UNRWA is extremely trustworthy and all monies can be tracked to go to the rightful place.

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Palestine will not agree to accept a 2 state solution. There must be a deliberate process established and brought to the table. The passage of times makes the process harder.