



# AZAPO

AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION

**TO: ALL MEDIA HOUSES FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FROM: AZAPO THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLICITY AND INFORMATION**

**DATE: JANUARY 16, 2025**

**SUBJECT: AZAPO IS ENCOURAGED BY THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT BETWEEN HAMAS AND THE ISRAELIS**

AZAPO has been following with interest the developments in the Middle East, especially the ceasefire agreement and the release of hostages' proclamation as made by both Israel and Palestine.

AZAPO is encouraged by the prospects of peace as millions of Palestinians in Gaza have been living in a war zone for decades with many including women and children maimed like rats in the last 15 months.

The Palestinians' rights to self-determination and freedom have been trampled upon for decades. The world cannot continue to helplessly watch this injustice and indignity. When the Europeans were attacked in Ukraine, the whole world jumped to the defence of white fragility. Why is it that the same care and attention cannot be given to the people of Palestine? Is it because they are not white?

As we welcome the proclamation, we are not naïve to the fact that this storyline has played itself before. The USA, this time under the guise of Israel, has in the past used its power to destroy nations, only to provide fake solutions afterwards. The world must reject any attempts for, not only a regime change, but the total annihilation of the state of Palestine.

In welcoming this proclamation, AZAPO is sceptical of the real intentions of Israel. The first day of the ceasefire was announced to be Sunday, however, things are now complicated by the fact that shortly after the deal was announced, Israel says it is now waiting for a cabinet meeting to approve the agreement. We hope this is not the strategy to shift the goal posts. How can an announcement be made, and a cabinet to meet after to review and endorse the announced proclamation?

We wish to see all hostages, political prisoners, military personnel and equipment unconditionally released as contained in the proclamation.

AZAPO calls upon the South African government never to cave under the pressure of the West and continue to unconditionally support the Palestinian people and their struggle. The Palestinian struggle is about the reclamation of their land, sovereignty and dignity. It is our struggle. AZAPO is aware of the ideological salad of the so-called GNU and it is our hope that this will not compromise the position the South African government has taken in support of the Palestinian people.

Until the Palestinian child is free to breath the air of freedom, the imperial war and all its ill intents, is far from over.

Let the world unite in the fight for the return and rebuilding of Palestine.

**Enquiries:** Jabu Rakwena  
**Email:** info@azapo.org.za  
**Telephone:** 060 677 4257  
**Office:** Secretary for Publicity and Information

Unit 4 - Ground Floor  
396 Cork Avenue, Ferndale, Randburg, 2194  
P.O. Box 4230, JOHANNESBURG 2000

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ISSUED BY AZAPO Department of Publicity and Information (DPI)

Enquiries:

Cde Jabu Rakwena  
Secretary for Publicity and Information  
Mobile No: 060 677 4257  
[jaburakwena@gmail.com](mailto:jaburakwena@gmail.com)

Cde Nosipiwo Manona  
Deputy Secretary for Publicity and Information  
Mobile No: 065 899 4566  
[projectinmate@gmail.com](mailto:projectinmate@gmail.com)

**Enquiries:** Jabu Rakwena  
**Email:** [info@azapo.org.za](mailto:info@azapo.org.za)  
**Telephone:** 060 677 4257  
**Office:** Secretary for Publicity and Information

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