

# origins

CNS documentary service

## Immediate Cease-Fire Needed in Gaza

### Bishop Pates

*The chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace wrote to Secretary of State John Kerry July 21 asking for the U.S. to do all it can to bring about an immediate cease-fire in Gaza and provide humanitarian assistance to Palestinians. As Origins went to print, more than 650 Palestinians, most of them civilians, had been killed in the standoff between Israel and Hamas, which runs the Gaza Strip and is considered a terrorist organization by Israel and the U.S. Thirty-one Israelis, including two civilians, had been killed. Bishop Richard E. Pates of Des Moines, Iowa, said in his letter to Kerry that "Israelis should not have to live in fear of Hamas' indiscriminate rocket attacks on civilian areas. At the same time,*

*"It is my hope and prayer that one day we might look back and find that this latest cycle of violence was the last — a cycle broken by a just and lasting peace agreement."*

*Palestinians should not have to live in fear for their lives from air and ground attacks or to suffer the humiliations of occupation." Bishop Pates said that if a cease-fire is accomplished, the U.S. should work to bring all parties together to attempt a permanent peace plan. "Only the emergence of a viable and independent Palestinian state living alongside a recognized and secure Israel will bring the peace for which majorities of both Israelis and Palestinians yearn," the bishop said. He noted that Catholic Relief Services had to cease operations in Gaza due to the conflict but would be ready to resume assistance once the violence stops. The bishop's letter follows.*

**L**ast Sunday, Pope Francis spoke to the terrible cycle of violence in the Holy Land. The pope pleaded with political leaders "not to spare prayer or any effort to end every hostility and seek the desired peace for the good of all." Despite this plea, the hostilities between Israel and Hamas have only intensified, bringing death and destruction, especially to the civilian population of Gaza.

Catholic Relief Services has had to suspend operations in Gaza due to the violence but with U.S. support is prepared to resume humanitarian and development assistance to Gaza's vulnerable population when a cease-fire is achieved.

Israelis should not have to live in fear of Hamas' indiscriminate rocket attacks on civilian areas. At the same time, Palestinians should not have to live in fear for their lives

*continued on page 186*



### contents

185	Immediate Cease-Fire Needed in Gaza <i>by Bishop Richard E. Pates</i>
186	Collective Punishment of Palestinians Should Be Halted <i>by the Assembly of Catholic Ordinaries of the Holy Land Commission for Justice and Peace</i>
188	Senate Testimony on Unaccompanied Minors Coming to U.S. From Central America <i>by Richard Jones</i>
194	Helping Students Face Challenges of Today's Culture <i>by Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò</i>
197	Homily Opening Fortnight for Freedom <i>by Archbishop William E. Lori</i>
198	Homily Closing Fortnight for Freedom <i>by Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz</i>
200	Datebook
200	On File

**July 31, 2014**  
**Volume 44**  
**Number 11**