



**FRIENDSHIP AND COLLABORATION AGREEMENT
BETWEEN BARCELONA - GAZA - TEL AVIV-JAFFA**

Here in the City of Barcelona, on the 24 of September in the year
nineteen hundred and ninety eight,

ARE GATHERED

On the one part, H.E. Mr. JOAN CLOS I MATHEU, in his condition
as Mayor of the BARCELONA CITY COUNCIL and as its
representative, being assisted during this ceremony by Mr. Romà
Miró i Miró, Secretary General of the Municipal Corporation.

On the other part, H.E. Mr. AOWN SHAWA, in his condition as
Mayor of the MUNICIPALITY OF GAZA, and as its representative.

On the other part, H.E. Mr. RONI MILO, in his condition as Mayor of
the MUNICIPALITY OF TEL AVIV-JAFFA, and as its representative.

The three parties mutually recognise their power to ratify the present
Agreement in the condition they represent and,



SET OUT

That within the Mediterranean context, initiatives must be developed to encourage dialogue and cooperation between the different people and cultures of the Region, contributing to shared development and peace. This is the objective of the Barcelona Declaration, signed in November 1995 by the Foreign Ministers of the EU and by the Mediterranean countries, one which we too share.

That the Middle East peace process relies on there being a positive approach to this dialogue and a strengthening of relations between the different communities to bring about mutual trust.

That progress in the peace process should be accompanied by improvements in the citizens' living conditions. A contribution to economic, social and cultural development also implies contributing to the success of the peace process. We support the Oslo peace agreements and wish to contribute to revive the spirit which made them possible.

That the cities can substantially contribute to these objectives by building networks for relations and exchanges to guarantee dialogue among the citizens and encourage the necessary agreements between the States.



That the three cities have been actively and resolutely cooperating in this Mediterranean dialogue and this agreement proposes to further strengthen this joint work, in particular through the Mediterranean Cities Conference.

That to assure our cities' development, economic, social and cultural relations as well as international solidarity must be strengthened.

That city relations contribute to the improvement of municipal services via the exchange of experience and know how on the management of public services,

That this agreement represents the mutual commitment to establish links of common interest between the municipalities of Barcelona, Gaza and Tel Aviv-Jaffa.

Given all that is set out above, the three municipalities agree to celebrate the present signing of the FRIENDSHIP AND COLLABORATION AGREEMENT.



THEY AGREE

- 1.- To express their support of the Oslo Peace Agreement signed by the Israeli government and the PLO.
- 2.- To strengthen the mutual capacity of the different administrations' through exchanging experience and knowledge in municipal management. To this effect annual thematic meetings will be organised with specialists from each of the three municipalities in the areas to be established.
- 3.- To promote areas of dialogue and cooperation between our societies involving the greatest possible number of citizen institutions, in particular Chambers of Commerce, University Centres, citizen associations, etc.
- 4.- To develop joint cultural initiatives helping to give the citizens an enhanced mutual understanding of our societies.
- 5.- To promote cooperation projects which contribute to the development and improvement of the Gaza peoples' living conditions.
- 6.- The Barcelona City Council commits a share of its annual international cooperation funds to agreed cooperation projects and to raise funds from other institutions (in particular the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European Commission) to finance those initiatives arising from this agreement.



7.- On behalf of the Barcelona City Council, the Department of International Relations, will assume the management of the necessary programmes and activities. On behalf of the Municipality of Tel Aviv-Jaffa, this will be done by the Director General and on behalf of the Municipality of Gaza, this will be done by the Project Coordination Unit.

As proof of their conformity and by will of the intervening parties, they sign the present Friendship and Collaboration Agreement in triplicate, and in English, on and in the aforementioned date and place, and witnessed by myself as Secretary General.

A. Shammouh

Mayor of Gaza

[Signature]
Mayor of Tel Aviv- Jaffa

[Signature]
Mayor of Barcelona

[Signature]
Secretary General



