



الشبكة العربية للمؤسسات الوطنية لحقوق الإنسان
The Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions

António Guterres

15 October 2023

UN Secretary-General

United Nations Headquarters

Subject: Urgent Appeal for Immediate Action to Halt Aggression on Gaza.

Dear Mr. Guterres,

We, the undersigned National Human Rights Institutions, write to you urgently to request your immediate intervention in the ongoing crisis in Gaza. Since October 7, 2023, Israeli airstrikes have caused significant civilian casualties, leading to the loss of over 2228 lives, including children and women, and leaving more than 8744 individuals injured. This unrelenting violence has also targeted civilian infrastructure, hospitals, and schools. The situation is exacerbated by a blockade that has further deepened the humanitarian crisis.

Of even greater concern, Gaza has been experiencing a complete electricity blackout since October 11, which has pushed essential health, water, and sanitation services to the brink of collapse and intensified the issue of food insecurity.

Mass displacement continues to escalate, with the latest OCHA figures as of October 14, 2023, revealing that the total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Gaza Strip has now exceeded 423,378. Alarming, over two-thirds of them are seeking refuge in UNRWA schools. with UNRWA hosting about 64 percent in 102 premises operated as designated emergency shelters. Some 33,054 IDPs had taken refuge at 36 public schools. It is estimated that over 153,000 IDPs, whose homes have been destroyed or damaged or have left their homes due to fear, are residing with relatives and neighbors, as well as in other public facilities.



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Furthermore, reports suggest that Israel may be considering evacuating the civilian population to Egypt, a move that would further endanger the lives and rights of the people in Gaza. This action is not only a gross violation of international humanitarian law but also amounts to a war crime.

In light of these devastating circumstances, we urgently and strongly request the following actions:

- Immediate issuance of a clear position statement by the United Nations condemning the aggression and expressing a strong commitment to ending the violence and protecting the rights of the people in Gaza.
- Immediate cessation of the aggression by all parties involved and an urgent call for a ceasefire to prevent further loss of innocent lives.
- Immediate establishment of humanitarian corridors to ensure the safe passage of essential humanitarian aid, medical supplies, and personnel to address the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza.

We sincerely appreciate your commitment to upholding international law and promoting principles of justice. We earnestly request your immediate and unwavering response to this urgent appeal.

Sincerely,

National Human Rights Institutions

Members in

The Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions

National human rights institutions established in accordance with the Paris Principles in (Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Egypt, Sudan, Djibouti, Comoros, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania)