



**Statement by Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process,
and UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian
Territory, Muhannad Hadi on the Situation in the Gaza Strip**

Jerusalem, 13 December 2024

“I am very concerned about the rapidly deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in Gaza. Civilians are paying the price of the continuing exchange of fire between the parties.

In recent days, multiple strikes across the Gaza Strip have resulted in scores of reported fatalities, and numerous injuries. Women and children continue to be among the casualties. Such incidents are further reminders of the unbearable human cost of the conflict.

I am equally concerned by the unacceptably insecure environment in Gaza that continues to negatively impact United Nations aid convoys. On 11 December, a 70-truck convoy from Kerem Shalom crossing was violently attacked by looters, leading to the loss of nearly all food and aid supplies. Around the same time, a WFP convoy leaving the Kissufim crossing came under fire, faced extensive delays, and had four out of five trucks violently looted. Attacks undermining humanitarian operations are unacceptable. They threaten the survival of those in desperate need of assistance.

Attacks on humanitarian operations can be avoided: earlier this week, through an Israeli agreement for us to use the Philadelphi corridor, a joint UN convoy delivered urgently needed food, reaching nearly 200,000 people in southern and central Gaza.

We remain committed to supporting the people of Gaza, working around the clock to get critical aid to families who lack everything after 14 months of war.

The principles of distinction, proportionality and precautions in attacks must be respected at all times. I call on all parties to ensure the protection of civilians and the safe and unimpeded passage of humanitarian aid.

The United Nations remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting efforts for an immediate ceasefire and the unconditional release of all hostages.

Urgent action is needed to end atrocities, address the conflict’s root causes, and safeguard the lives and dignity of all people in the region.”

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