

21 October 2023, Cairo

## **Statement attributable to the Spokesperson of the Secretary-General - on the situation in the Middle East**

The Secretary-General is grateful for the assistance of the Emir of Qatar for his efforts to secure the release of two Americans who had been held hostage in Gaza.

The Secretary-General renews his call for an immediate and unconditional release of all hostages.

He calls once again for unhindered and sustained humanitarian access in Gaza; full respect for international humanitarian law and the protection of civilians; as well as for a concerted effort by the international community to avoid a wider regional spill-over of the conflict.

Stephane Dujarric  
Spokesman for the Secretary-General

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