

**Statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General  
Violence in Gaza, the West Bank and Israel**

The Secretary-General is deeply concerned at the current escalation of violence in Gaza and southern Israel, as well as in the West Bank. He is troubled by the heavy bloodshed, particularly the killing and injuring of civilians on both sides and the potential for further casualties unless the situation is de-escalated.

The Secretary-General calls for an immediate cessation of Palestinian sniper and rocket attacks into Israel, and for maximum restraint on the part of the IDF [Israel Defence Forces]. He reminds all parties of their obligation to comply with international humanitarian law and not to endanger civilians.

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