

The Secretary-General's remarks to the press at UNRWA school

Beit Lahiya, Gaza, 30 August 2017

Ladies and Gentlemen of the press, thank you very much for your presence.

I am deeply moved to be in Gaza today, unfortunately, to witness one of the most dramatic humanitarian crises that I have seen in many years working as a humanitarian in the United Nations.

And deeply impressed by the suffering of the Gaza people in these tragic circumstances. Gaza needs a solution for its problems but, in between, I appeal to the international community to strongly support humanitarian aid in Gaza and, from the limited resources of our Central Emergency Relief Fund, I have ordered the immediate release of \$4 million to support the activities of the United Nations staff that is working for the benefit of the Gaza people in these tragic circumstances.

I have to say that I am very proud of the work that the UN staff, the majority of them from Gaza, is doing here in support of the people of Gaza in these very difficult moments.

The solution for the problems of the people of Gaza is not humanitarian.

I would like to leave here with two strong appeals.

The first, an appeal for unity. Yesterday, I was in Ramallah. Today, I am in Gaza. They are both parts of the same Palestine. So, I appeal for the unity, in line with the principles of the Palestinian Liberation Organization. The division only undermines the cause of the Palestinian people.

The second appeal, allow me to repeat what I said yesterday in Ramallah, with many years of contact with this conflict, I have a dream. A dream to one day see the Holy Land with two states – Israel and Palestine – living in peace and security together. Because of the that, I have appealed for a credible political process in order to address the problems that exist and to allow for the two-state solution to be implemented, removing the obstacles on the ground. But, at the same time, together with that political process, a program of action to improve the living conditions of the Palestinian people. It is important to open the closures, in line with resolution 1860 of the Security Council. It is important to avoid the buildup of the militantism that can undermine the confidence between the two people.

And being in Gaza, allow me to express my dream in a different way: the dream to be able to come back to Gaza one day and to see Gaza as part of a Palestinian state in peace, with prosperity and welfare for the people of this wonderful place.

Shoukran.

