
UNICEF Statement on situation in Gaza

AMMAN, 1 March 2008 - UNICEF is deeply troubled that the current escalation of the conflict in Gaza is hurting a large number of children. Since the beginning of the current round of violence on Wednesday, 17 children from Gaza have been killed according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has recently expressed deep concern at the loss of civilian life in Southern Israel and Gaza in the latest escalation of violence and called for maximum restraint.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child puts an emphasis on the need to take all feasible measures to ensure protection and care of children who are affected by an armed conflict.

In addition to being its direct casualties, the terrifying impact of this conflict affects all children.

Children constitute more than half the population of Gaza and are bearing the brunt of the crisis. They are already suffering severely from a series of restrictions, including the blockade on most goods imposed since June 2007.

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