
Kampala, Uganda, 31 May 2010 - Secretary-General's press conference

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In view of the seriousness of the situation which happened this morning, I would like with the understanding of the President of the ICC and the President of this Conference, if I make a statement on that situation.

I am shocked by reports of killings and injuries of people on the boats carrying supplies for Gaza, apparently in international waters, in the early hours of this morning. I condemn this violence. We do not yet know the full facts yet. More than ten people appeared to have been killed and many more wounded. It is vital that there is a full investigation to determine exactly how this bloodshed took place. I believe Israel must urgently provide a full explanation. I have instructed my Special Coordinator, Robert Serry, and UNRWA Commissioner General Filippo Grandi, to actively engage on the ground in urging restraint and ensuring that no further harm is done and coordinating with all relevant parties.

Q: [on criticisms of the ICC as a toothless dog and a possible enactment of a law on the crimes of aggression in the face of the Israeli raid on the aid flotilla]

SG: First of all, I am sure that there will be time enough for the international community to assess the proper response, including through the United Nations. Right now, what is absolutely vital, is that we first have a full account of the incident - what has happened -and Israel must provide a full explanation of this. For any further course of action, I will have to discuss with member states of the United Nations, including the Security Council or other concerned parties. I understand that the League of Arab States may be meeting in an urgent session. So we will act and coordinate with concerned parties.

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