



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Bachelet alarmed by number of Palestinian children killed in latest escalation, urges accountability

UN Human Rights Chief Michelle Bachelet today expressed alarm at the high number of Palestinians, including children, killed and injured in the occupied Palestinian territory this year, including in intense hostilities between Israel and Palestinian armed groups in Gaza last weekend.

In the past week, 19 Palestinian children have been killed in the occupied Palestinian territory, taking the death toll since the start of the year to 37. Seventeen children were killed during the Gaza hostilities from 5-7 August, and two more were killed on 9 August in Israeli law enforcement operations in the West Bank.

“Inflicting hurt on any child during the course of conflict is deeply disturbing, and the killing and maiming of so many children this year is unconscionable,” said Bachelet.

The civilian cost of the latest escalation in Gaza from 5-7 August was heavy. The UN Human Rights Office has verified that among the 48 Palestinians killed, there were at least 22 civilians, including 17 children and four women. The status of 22 fatalities remains undetermined. Of the 360 Palestinians reported injured, nearly two-thirds were civilians, including 151 children, 58 women and 19 older people. In a number of incidents, children were the majority of casualties. ...

“International humanitarian law is clear. Launching an attack which may be expected to incidentally kill or injure civilians, or damage civilian objects, in disproportionate manner to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated, is prohibited. ...

In violation of international humanitarian law, Palestinian armed groups also launched hundreds of rockets and mortars in indiscriminate attacks, causing civilian casualties and damage to civilian objects in Israel as well as in Gaza. According to the Israeli authorities, a total of 70 Israelis were injured. ...

Bachelet said the widespread use of live ammunition by Israeli forces in law enforcement operations across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in 2022 has led to an alarming increase in Palestinian fatalities. The UN Human Rights Office in the occupied Palestinian territory has this year documented the killing of 74 Palestinians, including 20 children. In

many incidents Israeli forces used lethal force in a manner that appeared to be in violation of international human rights law, she added. ...

“An almost total lack of accountability persists in the occupied Palestinian territory – whether for violations of international humanitarian law by all parties in hostilities in Gaza, or for recurring Israeli violations of international human rights law and the law of occupation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, including incidents of unnecessary and disproportionate use of force,” Bachelet said. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/08/bachelet-alarmed-number-palestinian-children-killed-latest-escalation-urges>

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Other Relevant Information

United Nations

UN experts launch new guidance for businesses working in conflict-affected regions

Doing business in conflict-affected areas means business enterprises have responsibilities to conduct heightened human rights due diligence and adopt a conflict-sensitive approach in all decisions impacting affected populations, UN experts said ...

In collaboration with the University of Essex and University of Virginia, the UN Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises formally launched new guidance for businesses working in conflict-affected regions.

Its report titled “Implementing the Third Pillar: Lessons from Transitional Justice” (A/HRC/50/40/Add.4) analyses how States have used transitional justice mechanisms to address the responsibility of business for their role in conflicts, and how relevant concepts and standards of reparation have addressed business-related human rights abuses.

The annex to the report sets out Guidelines for Designing and Implementing Reparation Programs in Business and Human Rights” which stress the need for reparation processes to be victim-centred. ...

The Working Group’s report to the General Assembly in 2020 (A/75/212) outlined practical measures ... to prevent and address business-related human rights abuse in conflict and post-conflict contexts. Building on that report, the Working Group and UNDP recently released guidance titled “Heightened Human Rights Due Diligence for Business in Conflict-Affected Contexts: A Guide” ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/08/un-experts-launch-new-guidance-businesses-working-conflict-affected-regions>

Implementing the third pillar: lessons from transitional justice guidance by the Working Group: Report of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises (A/HRC/50/40/Add.4)

<https://daccess-ods.un.org/access.nsf/Get?OpenAgent&DS=A/HRC/50/40/Add.4&Lang=E>

Heightened Human Rights Due Diligence for Business in Conflict-Afflicted Contexts

https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2022-06/UNDP_Heightened_Human_Rights_Due_Diligence_for_Business_in_Conflict-Affected_Context.pdf

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Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Bill of Rights Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3227>

Education (Non-religious Philosophical Convictions) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3186>

Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2862>

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3325>

Online Safety Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3137>

Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3217>

Private Burial Grounds and Cemeteries Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3188>

Universal Credit (Removal of Two Child Limit) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3163>

Schools Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3156>

Scottish Parliament

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill>

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Consultations ** new or updated today

Standards for ethnicity data (closing date 30 August 2022)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/standards-for-ethnicity-data>

Equality Evidence Strategy 2023-25 (closing date 23 September 2022)

<https://tinyurl.com/mpunv6cw>

Increasing the use of mediation in the civil justice system (closing date 4 October 2022)

<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/dispute-resolution/increasing-the-use-of-mediation/>

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