

ICC prosecutor 'alarmed' by Gaza violence



The Hague, October 18 (RHC)-- The International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda says she is "alarmed" by violence at the border between the besieged Gaza Strip and the Israeli-occupied territories, threatening to take action.

The warning comes on the heels of Israeli aerial assaults on Gaza that killed a Palestinian youth. The Israeli military claimed that its fresh air raids came "in response to the rockets fired from Gaza" onto occupied territories overnight. The claim was, however, rejected in a joint statement by Gaza-based Palestinian resistance groups.

The Hague-based court has been conducting a preliminary probe into crimes in the Palestinian territories since 2015. The probe covers Tel Aviv's actions during the regime full-scale war of 2014 against the Gaza Strip.

Tensions have been running high along the border between the besieged Gaza Strip and the occupied territories since March 30, which marked the start of a series of protests dubbed "The Great March of Return." Palestinian protesters are demanding the right to return for those driven out of their homeland.

The clashes in Gaza reached their peak on May 14, the eve of the 70th anniversary of Nakba Day, or the Day of Catastrophe, which coincided this year with Washington's relocation of the US embassy from Tel

Aviv to occupied Jerusalem.

More than 190 Palestinians have so far been killed and over 20,000 others wounded in the renewed Gaza clashes, according to the latest figures released by the Gaza Health Ministry.

Gaza has been under Israeli siege since June 2007, causing a decline in living standards as well as unprecedented unemployment and poverty. Israel has also launched several wars on the Palestinian sliver, the last of which began in early July 2014 and ended in late August the same year. The Israeli military aggression killed nearly 2,200 Palestinians and injured over 11,100 others.

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