

# *UNICEF calls for ceasefire in Gaza*

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## **UNICEF calls for immediate ceasefire in Gaza?**

United Nations, May 20 (RHC)-- At least 60 youngsters have been killed in Gaza and another 444 have been injured in less than 10 days of conflict with Israel, the head of UN Children's Fund has said, in a call for an immediate ceasefire and aid access to "stave off disaster". On Wednesday, the UN relief agency for

Palestine refugees (UNRWA) launched a flash appeal for \$38 million, to deal with the spiralling humanitarian crisis.

“Gaza’s one million children are reeling from the mounting consequences of violent conflict with nowhere safe to turn. Lives have been lost and families shattered,” said Henrietta Fore, UNICEF Executive Director.

Ms. Fore’s comments came as the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) also reported that only five trucks in a 24-vehicle humanitarian convoy had been able to enter southern Gaza through the Kerem Shalom crossing, which Israeli authorities closed only hours after reopening it, blaming militants who they said had launched mortars at it.

According to the UNICEF chief, nearly 30,000 children have been displaced in the Occupied Palestinian Territory enclave since May 10th. This underscores the need for “an immediate cessation of hostilities on humanitarian grounds to allow the entry of staff and essential supplies, including fuel, medical items, first-aid kits and COVID-19 vaccines.”

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