

UNICEF warns Israel's assault on Gaza killing or wounding 420 children a day

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United Nations, October 31 (RHC)-- The United Nations children's agency has warned Israel is committing rampant grave violations of human rights against children in the besieged Gaza Strip.

On Monday, UNICEF's Executive Director Catherine Russell briefed the U.N. Security Council on the humanitarian situation in Gaza, warning Israel's assault is killing or injuring more than 420 children in Gaza every day — a number she said should “shake each of us to our core.”

Catherine Russell said: “I implore the Security Council to immediately adopt a resolution that reminds parties of their obligations under international law, that calls for a ceasefire, that demands the parties allow safe and unimpeded humanitarian access, that demands the immediate and safe release of all abducted children, and that urges parties to afford children the special protection to which they are entitled.”

Palestinian health officials say over 8,500 people — mostly women and children — have been killed over the past 26 days.

On Monday, an Israeli warplane bombed the Turkish-Palestinian Friendship Hospital, the only hospital in Gaza for cancer patients. The attack set part of the building on fire and damaged medical equipment, drawing a strong condemnation from Turkey.

In the past 24 hours, Israeli air raids have also struck near the European Hospital, the Indonesia Hospital and flattened homes in the vicinity of the al-Quds Hospital, where some 14,000 Palestinians are sheltering.

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