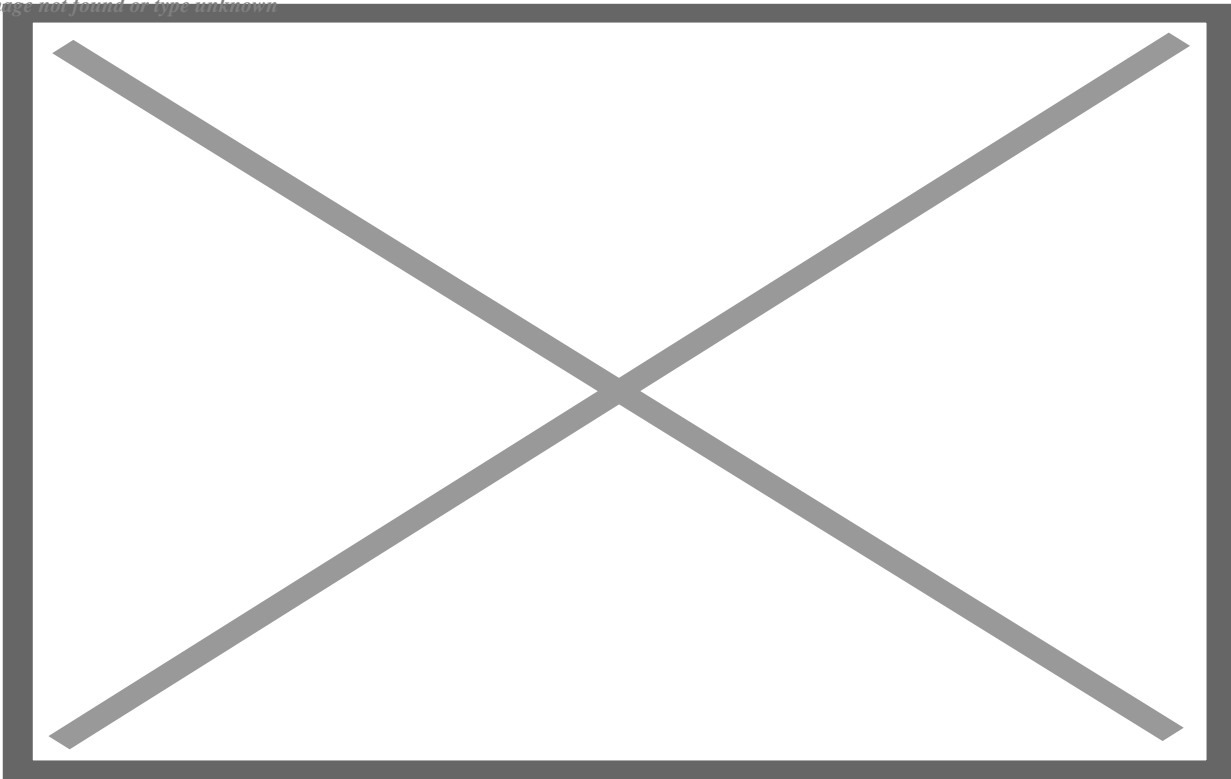


UN Security Council voices deep concern over deadly attack on Gaza aid convoy

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In this screen grab taken from video and released by the Israeli army on Thursday, Feb. 29, 2024, Palestinians surround aid trucks in northern Gaza in what officials described the day before as the first major delivery in a month. (IDF via AP)

United Nations, March 4 (RHC)-- The UN Security Council has expressed “deep concern” after nearly 120 Palestinians lost their lives in an Israeli attack on civilians waiting to receive humanitarian aid southwest of Gaza City.

The joint statement from members added that several hundred people were also injured in the Thursday incident, and some had sustained “gunshot wounds as observed by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).” It, however, did not specify who was responsible for the

gunfire.

The Security Council members went on to “extend their sincere condolences to the families of the victims and wish a swift and complete recovery for those who have been injured.”

The members also “urged Israel to keep border crossings open for humanitarian aid to enter Gaza, to facilitate the opening of additional crossings to meet humanitarian needs at scale, and to support the rapid and safe delivery of relief items to people in all of the Gaza Strip.”

They urged for the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure, and reminded all parties that they “must comply with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law.”

The council members said they also have “grave concern” over the estimation...that all 2.2 million people in Gaza would face alarming levels of acute food insecurity.

They called for parties to the conflict to allow, facilitate, and enable the immediate, rapid, safe, sustained and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance at scale to the Palestinian civilian population throughout the Gaza Strip.

The statement comes less than two days after the US blocked a previous UN Security Council statement, blaming Israel for the aid calamity.

One more Palestinian man died from his wounds on Saturday, bringing the total number of deaths from the Israeli military's “flour massacre” against a group of Palestinians in Gaza who were waiting for humanitarian aid to 118, the Health Ministry in the besieged enclave said. “A citizen died at Kamal Adwan Hospital as a result of injuries sustained in the Rasheed Street massacre on Thursday morning,” the ministry said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the European Union has censured restrictions imposed by the Israeli regime on the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza. The bloc's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, in a statement, recalled the recent Israeli attack on civilians in the blockaded territory, describing it as “unjustifiable.”

“We request an impartial international investigation on this tragic event allowing for a clear picture of the events and responsibilities,” he said, urging Israel to comply with the rules of international law and to protect the distribution of humanitarian aid to civilian populations.

Borrell urged Israel to “fully cooperate” with the UN agencies and other humanitarian actors involved in the humanitarian response and to allow free, unimpeded and safe humanitarian access through all crossing points. “We condemn the restrictions imposed by Israel on the entry of humanitarian aid and on the opening of crossing points,” he said.

Borrell added that the EU also urges Israel to remove immediately the obstacles at the Kerem Shalom crossing and open the access in the north at Karni and Erez crossings so as to open the port of Ashdod to humanitarian aid and to allow a direct humanitarian corridor from Jordan.

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