

UN torture expert urges probe into Israeli violations in Gaza after truce



Israeli soldiers are seen in the Gaza Strip

United Nations, January 21 (RHC)-- The UN special rapporteur on torture says an investigation is required into human rights abuses committed by Israeli forces during the campaign of death and destruction in the besieged Gaza Strip.

In a statement released on Monday, Alice Jill Edwards emphasized the significance of the recent truce agreement after 15 months of Israeli bombardment and displacement in Gaza and the devastating impact on civilians since October 7, 2023.

She said the return of Palestinians was “a critical development” and expressed hope for a lasting peace and justice after a period of immense suffering. She referred to the massacres that the regime and its supporters had committed within Gaza’s small geographical area, which claimed the lives of at least 47,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children.

Edwards underscored the need for full implementation of the truce as a potential pathway toward sustainable peace. “This is a day so many have hoped for.”

The remarks came after the implementation of the first phase of a ceasefire deal between the regime and Hamas.

Alice Jill Edwards also highlighted concerns about the treatment of thousands of Palestinian abductees in Israeli jails and the allegations against them. “All allegations must be thoroughly investigated, those responsible held to account, and all victims of torture provided with justice and rehabilitation support.”

Many Palestinian prisoners are tortured, starved, denied adequate medical care, and cut off from the outside world, including their families.

Elsewhere in her remarks, Edwards urged the Israeli regime to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross immediate access to all the details of Palestinians held in prison.

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