

Israel Refuses to Cooperate with United Nations Gaza Inquiry



Tel Aviv, November 13 (RHC)-- Israel has said it will not cooperate with a United Nations probe into Tel Aviv's war crimes during its recent aggression against the besieged Gaza Strip. The Israeli foreign ministry made the announcement on Wednesday, and rejected an entry request by the three-member team of the UN Human Rights Council, leaving them stranded in the Jordanian capital of Amman.

The team was tasked with investigating Israeli war crimes and international human rights violations during the 50-day war on Gaza. In August, Canadian lawyer William Schabas was appointed as head of the UN inquiry commission.

According to reports, Schabas attempted to bring Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu before the International Criminal Court. "Since the Schabas commission is not an inquiry but a commission that gives its conclusions in advance, Israel will not cooperate with the UN Commission on Human Rights over the last conflict with Hamas," read a foreign ministry statement.

Israel's recent war on Gaza ended on August 26th with an Egyptian-brokered truce, which took effect after negotiations in the Egyptian capital, Cairo.

Israel started pounding the blockaded enclave in early July, inflicting heavy losses on the Palestinian land. Over 2,140 Palestinians, mostly civilians -- including women, children and the elderly -- were killed in the

50 days of the Israeli onslaught on Gaza. Around 11,000 others were wounded.

Gaza has been blockaded since 2007, which is a situation that has caused a decline in the standard of living, unprecedented levels of unemployment and unrelenting poverty.

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