

Israel declares UN secretary-general persona non grata, accusing Antonio Guterres of supporting terrorists, rapists and murderers

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Tel Aviv, October 2 (RHC)-- Israel's foreign minister has declared United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres "persona non grata" and barred him from entering the country.

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz on Wednesday accused Guterres of failing to "unequivocally" condemn Iran's missile attack on Israel. Israel has persistently complained over the UN's approach throughout its

yearlong war in Gaza.

“Anyone who cannot unequivocally condemn Iran’s heinous attack on Israel, as almost every country in the world has done, does not deserve to step foot on Israeli soil,” Katz wrote on X.

Warming to his theme, the official accused the UN chief of giving his “backing to terrorists, rapists, and murderers” and branded him “a stain on the history of the UN”.

The attack came in response to Guterres’s statement regarding Iran’s missile barrage. Shortly after the attack, Guterres condemned the escalation of violence in the region but made no mention of Iran.

The UN chief wrote on Tuesday evening: “I condemn the broadening of the Middle East conflict with escalation after escalation. This must stop. We absolutely need a ceasefire.”

Israel has long been at loggerheads with the UN and many other international organisations. However, relations between the state and the international body have hit a new low since Israel launched its relentless war in Gaza, which followed attacks on southern Israel by Hamas on October 7th last year.

[Source: Al Jazeera and news agencies]

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