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Statement of Ireland

57th session of the Human Rights Council

Item 7 General Debate: General Debate on the Human Rights Situation in Palestine and Other Occupied Arab Territories

2 October 2024

41,000 Palestinians have been killed since last October. Over 11,000 of these are children. 90% of the population is internally displaced. Almost half a million people are facing catastrophic levels of food insecurity. The continuing violence in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territory must stop.

As the anniversary of the terror attacks perpetrated by Hamas on 7 October approaches, we reiterate our unequivocal condemnation of these heinous and unjustifiable acts. But Israel's response to the Hamas attack has been and is completely disproportionate. International law limits the use of force in self-defence. These limits have long been exceeded.

Israel has an obligation to abide by International Humanitarian Law. The safety of UN and other humanitarian workers must be protected.

We call for an immediate ceasefire and hostage release deal, and a massive surge of humanitarian aid into Gaza.

Israel's military escalation in Lebanon is deeply alarming. We condemn Hezbollah's attacks on Israel, but a ground invasion or wider regional conflict would be disastrous. We need an immediate ceasefire, a diplomatic solution and urgent humanitarian aid.

The only viable path to lasting peace and security for Israelis and Palestinians is implementation of a two-State solution.

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