

Gaza Strip have been unprecedented. I reiterate my calls upon Israel to abide by international humanitarian law and human rights law and ensure that civilians, including children, and civilian infrastructure are not targeted, and that incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians and damage to civilian objects are not caused in violation of the principle of proportionality in international humanitarian law, and to ensure that all feasible precautions are taken to avoid, and in any event to minimize, such incidental loss, injury or damage in the conduct of military operations. I am deeply concerned regarding the excessive use of force during law enforcement operations and reiterate that security forces must exercise maximum restraint and use intentional lethal force only when it is strictly unavoidable in order to protect life and put in place preventive and protective measures to minimize damage and injury, including damage and injury that affect children. I further urge Israel to pursue accountability for violations against children. I exhort Israel to take immediate steps to protect schools and hospitals, including ambulances and protected persons in relation to schools and/or hospitals, and refrain from attacking them or using them for military purposes. Further, I am deeply concerned by the alarming increase in the number of children arrested and detained by Israel and by the reports by children of physical violence directed against them during detention. I reiterate my call upon Israel to uphold international juvenile justice standards, including the use of detention only as a last resort and for the shortest period of time, to immediately end the administrative detention of children, to prevent any violence and ill-treatment in detention and to prevent attempted use of children as informants.

116. I urge all parties to conflict to immediately end and prevent grave violations against children and to urgently engage with my Special Representative and the United Nations working group on children and armed conflict on the ground, on the basis of the letters previously addressed by Israel, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad to my Special Representative in 2022 and 2023, and to adopt immediately clear, time-bound commitments to end and prevent grave violations against children, as proposed by the United Nations, and to comply with international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

117. I am deeply alarmed about the deteriorating humanitarian conditions, and by attacks against humanitarian workers, including the killing of United Nations personnel. I call upon Israel to grant full, rapid, safe and unhindered access for humanitarian aid and personnel into and within the Gaza Strip. The United Nations and its partners cannot effectively deliver humanitarian aid while the Gaza Strip is under heavy, widespread and unrelenting military operations, including air strikes. I call upon all parties to conflict to respect the humanitarian notification system so as to maximize the safety of aid operations.

### **Lebanon**

118. The United Nations verified 104 grave violations against 95 children (87 boys, 8 girls).

119. The United Nations verified the recruitment and use of 74 boys by unidentified armed groups (25), Jund Ansar Allah (13), Nusrah Front (11), Fatah (9), Al-Shabab al-Muslim (7), Jund al-Sham (6), Hizbullah (2) and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (1).

120. Seven children were arrested and prosecuted under military jurisdiction on national security-related charges. Two children who were detained in 2022 and 2023, respectively, were released during the reporting period.

121. Some 21 children (13 boys, 8 girls) were killed (10) and maimed (11) by unidentified perpetrators (15) and the Israeli armed and security forces (6), including during shelling and drone strikes (6) and by explosive remnants of war (5).

122. Nine attacks on schools by unidentified perpetrators (9) were verified. Attacks occurred during armed clashes in a Palestine refugee camp (6) and during shelling across the Blue Line (3). The military use of eight United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) schools by Fatah and Jund al-Sham in a Palestine refugee camp was verified. Four schools have since been vacated but remain inaccessible to UNRWA.

*Developments and concerns*

123. I am concerned about the rise in verified grave violations, notably the recruitment and use of children and the killing and maiming of children. I urge the Government to engage with the United Nations to strengthen child protection systems.

124. I reiterate my call upon the Government to release children detained on national security grounds to civilian child protection actors and to treat them primarily as victims and in line with international juvenile justice standards.

125. I am disturbed by continued armed clashes in Palestine refugee camps and their impact on children. I urge Fatah and Jund al-Sham to immediately vacate schools.

**Libya**

126. The United Nations verified 58 grave violations against 16 children (14 boys, 1 girl, 1 sex unknown). In addition, 24 grave violations that occurred in the previous year were verified.

127. A total of 159 children were detained under the jurisdiction of the Judicial Police in Tripoli. Some 61 children of multiple nationalities were arrested by the Judicial Police and detained with their mothers, including 34 children who continue to be detained in Judaydah prison for their mothers' alleged association with Da'esh. A further 241 children were detained in migration detention centres across Libya.

128. The United Nations verified the killing (2) and maiming (9) of 11 children (8 boys, 2 girls, 1 sex unknown) by explosive ordnance (9) and crossfire (2) between Tareq Bin Ziyad Brigade affiliated with Libyan National Army (LNA) and armed groups (1) and armed clashes between anti-terrorism forces and Shabab al-Shurafa (1).

129. Two verified attacks on hospitals were attributed to unidentified perpetrators.

130. The United Nations verified the abduction of five boys by LNA. The children remain in captivity.

131. The United Nations verified 40 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access attributed to the administrative department of the Government of National Unity (7), the Libyan Coast Guard (6), the Internal Security Agency (5), the Department for Combating Illegal Migration (4), the Internal Security Agency and administrative department of the Government of National Unity (3), LNA (2), the Intelligence Service (2), the Department for Combating Illegal Migration and administrative department of the Government of National Unity (2), the administrative department of the Government of National Unity and the Libyan Coast Guard (8), and 55 Brigade of the Ministry of Interior (1).

*Developments and concerns*

132. I welcome the commitment made by the Government of National Unity to increase the minimum age of recruitment into security forces to 18 years.

133. I am concerned about the increase in abductions of children, including by security institutions, and the prevalence of killing and maiming of children. I urge all