



News Note

UNICEF concerned about escalation of violence in occupied Palestinian territory and Israel

JERUSALEM, 24 March 2011 – UNICEF is deeply concerned about the recent escalation of violence in the occupied Palestinian territory and Israel and its impact on children.

“In the past weeks, we have witnessed a series of incidents in which Palestinian and Israeli children have lost their lives, sometimes in the most horrifying manner,” said Jean Gough, UNICEF Special Representative to the occupied Palestinian territory. “Many children have also been injured and have witnessed the deaths and injuries of close relatives. We call upon all parties to do everything in their power to protect children and put an end to violence.”

Since the beginning of the year, eight Palestinian children died as a result of the violence, including three who were killed by an Israeli tank shell in the Gaza Strip two days ago. More than 60 children were injured, including at least 12 under the age of 12.

Yesterday, several Israeli children were injured by an explosive device planted near a bus stop in Jerusalem. Earlier this month, three Israeli children were killed in the West Bank, including a three-month old baby.

Rocket fire by Palestinian militants from Gaza towards Israel has recently escalated.

UNICEF calls on all parties to protect the rights and well-being of all children and to respect the Convention of the Rights of the Child, international humanitarian law and human rights law.

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