

Note to Correspondents: on Gaza

Stéphane Dujarric, Spokesman for the Secretary-General

Once again, we are witnessing unthinkable loss of life in Gaza.

The Secretary-General condemns the loss of lives and injuries of Palestinians seeking aid in Gaza. It is unacceptable. Civilians are risking – and in several instances losing – their lives to get food.

Palestinians have the fundamental right to adequate food and to be free from hunger.

The Secretary-General continues to call for an immediate and independent investigation into these events and for perpetrators to be held accountable.

The basic needs of the population in Gaza are enormous and are not being met. Israel has clear obligations under international humanitarian law to agree to and facilitate humanitarian relief for all civilians who need it.

The unimpeded entry of humanitarian assistance at scale must be restored immediately. The UN must be allowed to work in safety and security under conditions of full respect for humanitarian principles.

All hostages must be released immediately and unconditionally.

The Secretary-General continues to call for an immediate permanent, sustainable ceasefire.