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News stories

Gaza: Avoid a repetition of violence and loss of life



Ahead of a new demonstration planned today in Gaza along the border with Israel, the EU has called for restraint from both sides to avoid renewed violence. 21 Palestinians have died in clashes since 30 March

The EU has called upon all concerned, on all sides, to act with utmost responsibility and restraint as further demonstrations in Gaza take place today, in order to avoid a repetition of violence and loss of life.

Last week the EU called for an independent and transparent investigation into the use of live

ammunition when 19 Palestinians were killed by Israeli Security Forces using live ammunition during clashes and demonstrations. Hundreds were also injured as tens of thousands demonstrated inside Gaza near the border fence on 30 March.

"While Israel has the right to protect its borders, the use of force must be proportionate at all times," read a statement by the Spokesperson.

Recognising the right to peaceful demonstration, the European Union expects that those leading the protests in Gaza avoid any incitement to violence, ensure that any protests, demonstrations and assemblies remain strictly non-violent, and do not exploit them for other means, the Spokesperson reiterated in a new statement on 5 April.

The European Union expects Israel to respect the fundamental right to peaceful protest and proportionality in the use of force when defending its legitimate security interests.

A march to the border fence with Israel was organised in Gaza on the occasion of Land Day, asserting the right of return of refugees and demand an end on the closure of Gaza.

The EU reiterates its call for an end to the closure of Gaza and a full opening of the crossing points. As shown by the wave of protests, the lack of political process is not an option, asserted last week's statement.

A political solution for Gaza and an urgent resumption of peace talks towards a two state solution are the only way for Palestinians and Israelis to live side by side in peace and security.

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