

**Statement on Gaza by Tom Fletcher, Under-Secretary-General
for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator**

(New York, 12 June 2025) Attacks on civilians in Gaza – including the killing and injury of hungry people seeking food and those delivering aid – are unacceptable.

United Nations convoys carrying humanitarian aid have been intercepted by armed Palestinian gangs, who endangered our staff and drivers. Civilians in desperate need of the food we're able to bring in have not been spared; some have been shot by Israeli forces, and others crushed by trucks or stabbed while trying to retrieve food.

Other incidents have concentrated around militarized distribution centres, where starving people tell us that Israeli forces opened fire on them. Hospitals report that they have received 245 fatalities and over 2,150 injuries from these areas over the past two weeks. And yesterday the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation stated that Palestinians involved in their distribution were killed, injured, and captured by Hamas.

Without immediate and massively scaled-up access to the basic means of survival, we risk a descent into famine, further chaos, and the loss of more lives.

Hunger must never be met with bullets. Humanitarians must be allowed to do their work. Lifesaving aid must reach people in need, in line with humanitarian principles.

We stand ready, as we have repeatedly emphasized, to deliver lifesaving aid at scale. Let us do our work.

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