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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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We mourn for our colleagues who have been killed –a number that is increasing by the day.

I have been in constant contact with leaders across the region, focusing on ways to reduce suffering and prevent further dangerous escalation in the West Bank or elsewhere in the region, especially in southern Lebanon.

The exchanges of fire across the Blue Line are very worrying. They must stop.

We need immediate humanitarian access throughout Gaza, so that we can get fuel, food and water to everyone in need.

Even wars have rules.

International humanitarian law and human rights law must be respected and upheld; civilians must be protected and never used as shields.

All hostages in Gaza must be released immediately.

It is imperative that all parties – and those with influence over them – do everything possible to achieve these steps.tes 2.130.248 0 Td(TjEMC P MMCID \$\frac{1}{2}\$ 2.130.951.1

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