NEWS RELEASE

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Intensification of IDF operations in Middle Gaza deeply alarming amid mass displacement of Palestinians

OHCHR is deeply worried about the intensified military operations by the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) in Middle Gaza, in particular in Al Maghazi and Al Bureij Camps that is resulting in further killings, maiming and displacement of already exhausted and long-suffering of Palestinian civilians.

On 5 June, IDF confirmed the intensification of operations in areas to the east of Al Bureij and east of Deir Al Balah, allegedly targeting Hamas infrastructure. The IDF is reportedly carrying out ground and air operations in the crowded refugee camps of Middle Gaza and no evacuation order for these areas have been issued. Overnight, at least 70 Palestinians were reportedly killed, and more than 300 were injured, many of them women, children and IDPs. A photojournalist was also reportedly injured while covering the situation in Al Bureij.

As a result of these operations, it is reported that hundreds of Palestinians, many already displaced multiple times, are on the move from Al Bureij and Al Maghazi towards An Nuseirat, where there is little shelter, clean water, infrastructure or humanitarian assistance. This latest displacement is in addition to the more than one million Palestinians who have been forcibly displaced in recent weeks from Rafah towards Al Mawasi in Khan Yunis and Deir Al Balah in Middle Gaza, following IDF ground operations in Rafah. The intensification of IDF operations in Middle Gaza raises further concerns over the already dire humanitarian situation.

IDF must take immediate steps to protect civilians, particularly the most vulnerable, and have the obligation to provide them with the required foodstuffs and medical supplies and, if unable to do so, at the very least facilitate their access to essential humanitarian assistance. OHCHR reiterates that there is no safe place in Gaza and calls on all parties to the conflict to immediately implement a ceasefire.

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