



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**Statement by
Javier SOLANA,
EU High Representative for the CFSP,
on violence in and around Gaza**

Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), made the following comments on the current violence in and around Gaza:

“I am extremely concerned at the current violence and bloodshed in and around Gaza and, first of all, I want to express my sincere condolences to the families of the Palestinian and Israeli victims.

I call for an immediate cessation of military actions on both sides. The EU has repeatedly condemned rocket attacks against Israel. The current Israeli strikes are inflicting an unacceptable toll on Palestinian civilians and will only worsen the humanitarian crisis as well as complicate the search for a peaceful solution.

There is no military solution to the situation in Gaza. I therefore urge the parties to return to the calm as brokered by Egypt and call on everybody in the region to use their influence to encourage restraint and prevent recourse to violence.

Passages in and out of Gaza should be reopened to allow humanitarian and regular commercial flows. As we have already said, the EU is ready to resume its Monitoring Mission at Rafah.”

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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