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## **West Bank and Gaza Strip and Israel**

Palestinian and Israeli children are suffering serious impacts from the recent escalation of violent conflict. Children under 18 years of age have been killed, injured, and suffered damage to their psychosocial well-being. Some have themselves perpetrated violence, and they have been manipulated by propaganda.

The Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict urges immediate action by the United Nations Security Council to protect the security and rights of children:

- The UN Security Council should take immediate steps to remove the obstacles that prevent a high level UN mission to the region. The mission should include representatives from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the Special Representative to the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, and UNICEF.
- The mission should give top priority to the impacts of the conflict on girls and boys, in keeping with the Security Council's recognition that the protection of children is a matter of international peace and security. The delegation should obtain specific commitments on child protection from the government of Israel and Palestinian leaders. Both sides should be held accountable to the standards of international human rights and humanitarian law, including the standards for protection of civilians under occupation. Local non-governmental organizations should be invited to brief delegates on the situation of children. The findings of the mission should be made public.
- The UN Security Council should ensure implementation on the ground of recent resolutions on children and armed conflict, protection of civilians, and building peace in the region. The first concrete step would be deployment of child rights observers to report regularly to the Security Council on any abuses of the rights of Palestinian and Israeli children.

The Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict is an NGO initiative to improve monitoring, reporting and follow-up advocacy to protect the security and rights of children in specific armed conflicts. A Watchlist report on Palestinian and Israeli children is in development.