سازمان دفاع از قربانیان خشونت
Organization for Defending Victims of Violence

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Panel discussion on quality education for peace and tolerance for every child

Mr. President,

Over the past year, at least 625,000 children in Gaza have been deprived of education according to UNICEF. Given the slim chances of achieving a lasting ceasefire, they are unlikely to return to schools this month. relentless bombardment have left nearly 90% of all school buildings in Gaza damaged or destroyed and 261 teachers killed. Israa University, the last remaining university in Gaza was demolished by the Israeli military on 17 January. Most recently, Israel killed more than 100 displaced Palestinians in its attack on Al-Tabin School, leaving victims charred and often unidentifiable by their loved ones. Even UN schools including those Israeli military-designated "safe zones" are being bombed.

Israel is attempting to comprehensively destroy the Palestinian education system, an action known as 'scholasticide'. "The persistent attacks on educational infrastructure in Gaza have a devastating long-term impact on the fundamental rights of children to learn and freely express themselves, depriving another generation of Palestinians of their future.

Attacks on education should not be tolerated. The international community must send a clear message that those who target schools and universities will be held responsible. Accountability for these violations includes an obligation to finance and rebuild the education system. We owe it to the children of Gaza to uphold their right to education and pave the way for a more peaceful and just future.