# U.N. Secretary General Warns of Catastrophe in Israel-Lebanon Conflict Tensions



### U.N. Chief Warns of Potential Widening Conflict in Israel-Lebanon Tensions

June 21, 2024 - United Nations Secretary General António Guterres cautioned Israel and Hezbollah against any actions that could intensify the ongoing conflict along Israel's northern border with Lebanon. Addressing the escalating violence, Guterres warned that the situation could lead to a "catastrophe" extending beyond regional borders.

The Secretary General's comments followed months of increasing hostilities, marked by intensified strikes and counterstrikes between Israeli forces and Hezbollah, an Iran-backed Lebanese group allied with Hamas in Gaza. Over 100 civilians have been killed, and more than 150,000 people displaced due to the conflict. Guterres highlighted the significant toll on lives and urged avoiding further escalation.

Israeli forces reported intercepting aerial targets from Lebanon and responded with artillery and airstrikes targeting Hezbollah infrastructure. Israel’s Foreign Minister Israel Katz signaled possible decisive military actions, while Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah issued threats of missile attacks on Israel and potential involvement of Cyprus in the conflict.

In a related development, aid to Gaza remains hindered by looting and security issues. Despite Israel's combat pause on key routes, humanitarian agencies struggle to deliver aid due to lawlessness and attacks on aid convoys. The UN and other organizations face significant challenges in distributing necessary supplies amidst the ongoing military operations and political resistance.

World leaders, including U.S. President Joe Biden, are actively seeking a diplomatic resolution to the crisis to prevent a broader conflict.