Cuba calls for end to violence between Israel and Palestine (+Update)



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Following the Hamas attack on Israel, Cuba has called for an end to the violence. Cuba is "deeply concerned about the escalation of violence between Israel and Palestine which is the consequence of 75 years of permanent violation of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and of Israel's aggressive and expansionist policies," reads a statement from the Cuban Foreign Ministry.

"Cuba calls for a comprehensive, just, and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on the creation of two states that will allow the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination and have an independent and sovereign state within the pre-1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital," the socialist country said. It said the UN Security Council must fulfill its function in the conflict in which the U.S. has been complicit "by repeatedly obstructing the body's action, undermining peace, security, and stability in the Middle East."

"Cuba calls for peace and the search for a negotiated solution to avoid further escalation of the conflict that has already cost the lives of tens of thousands of people," said the <u>statement</u> <u>released Saturday</u> evening by the Cuban Foreign Ministry.

Update (14.10): Cuba's Foreign Ministry released <u>another statement</u> on Oct. 14 addressing recent developments in the Middle East and spelling out its condemnation of the violence by all actors, without mentioning them by name. Thus, it states, "The Ministry rejects and has always rejected the deaths of civilians and innocents of all parties involved in this conflict, regardless of their ethnicity, nationality, or religious beliefs, and strongly condemns the killing of civilians, especially women, children, and humanitarian workers of the United Nations system; as well as the indiscriminate shelling of the population in Gaza and the destruction of residential buildings, hospitals, and civilian infrastructure, and the disruption of water,

electricity, and fuel supplies to the population in Gaza, acts that constitute serious violations of international humanitarian law."

Furthermore, the island formulated an "urgent appeal for a ceasefire" and called for the "immediate facilitation of the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza" and an "end to warmongering rhetoric." It repeated its criticism of "decades of Israeli practices of illegal occupation and colonization" and a call for implementation of a two-state solution within pre-1967 borders under a UN mandate that "also guarantees the refugees' right of return." "The Foreign Ministry calls for the search for a swift negotiated solution that will end this escalation of violence and its grave humanitarian consequences," reads the end of the statement, which is titled: "A just and lasting peace in the Middle East is a necessity that cannot be postponed."

Update (16.10): On Sunday, the Foreign Ministry said it was in contact with Cuban citizens in the Palestinian territories. Specifically, there is a Cuban woman with family members who is in the Gaza Strip, as well as four Cubans in the West Bank. Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez <u>said on X</u> that "close contact" is maintained in order to "provide adequate consular support" to the compatriots. (<u>Cubaheute</u>)