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**ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANDREW GILMOUR AS CHAIR OF UN STAFF FOR GAZA**

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UN Staff for Gaza is pleased to announce the selection of its Chair: Mr. Andrew Gilmour of the United Kingdom, former United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights.

As Chair, Mr. Gilmour leads UN Staff for Gaza, setting its strategic priorities and guiding its plan of action, while helping to ensure that activities remain compliant with UN Staff Rules and Regulations.

“I am honoured to be asked to serve as Chair of UN Staff for Gaza,” Mr. Gilmour said. **“I feel such admiration and pride for my former colleagues working in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip under unspeakable conditions.** Hundreds of them have been killed by the Israel Defense Forces in their homes or while carrying out their life-saving UN work.”

**“I am also proud of other former colleagues all over the world who feel fierce solidarity and who are speaking out to uphold our common humanity and fundamental UN principles,”** he said.

Mr. Gilmour has a long and distinguished international career. He served as United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights from 2016 to 2019, prior to which he was the Director of Political, Peacekeeping, Humanitarian and Human Rights Affairs in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, from 2012 to 2016. He was also the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General in both Iraq and South Sudan.

Mr. Gilmour joined the United Nations in 1989, working in Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Western Balkans, West Africa, Jerusalem, Gaza, and Beirut, among other locations. After leaving the UN, he became Executive Director of the Berghof Foundation, a conflict mediation organization based in Berlin, as well as a Visiting Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford. He is the author of *The Burning Question: Climate Change and conflict – why does it matter?* (2024) and currently serves on the boards of several non-profits, including the United Nations Association – UK, Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, the Reckoning Project, and others.

**“The international response to Gaza since 2023 counts as the cruellest and most extreme example of double standards in my lifetime, making a mockery of international law and thus dealing a terrible blow to human rights globally,”** Mr. Gilmour said.

In 1994, during the Rwandan genocide, he was the UN Secretariat’s notetaker in private closed-door meetings of the Security Council. Day after day, he now recalls, he had to listen to ambassadors insist that the killings in Rwanda did not amount to genocide, notwithstanding the clear reports of brave UN staff on the ground. Afterwards, many expressed regret and intoned ‘never again,’ but it was too late for the hundreds of thousands who were murdered, Mr. Gilmour observed.

“What was happening in Rwanda in 1994 wasn’t livestreamed every day all over the world for 22 months,” he said. “People could claim relative ignorance about what was unfolding, unlike with Gaza today.”

Mr. Gilmour added that UN staff have been well represented by their senior leaders, many of whom have been courageous and principled in speaking out on this issue since October 2023, notwithstanding major political pressure not to do so.

The Chair is supported by Senior Advisers and the UN Staff for Gaza Executive Team. The Advisers and the Team comprise current and former members of UN personnel serving in the Secretariat and in Agencies, Funds and Programmes, in New York and other duty stations.

Members of the Executive Team said: **“We who presume to work on behalf of humanity must speak up for humanity.”**

UN Staff for Gaza mobilizes United Nations Staff and related personnel to speak out against the atrocities perpetrated against the Palestinian people in Gaza, and against our colleagues, amplifying the voices of our leadership. Expressions of interest are welcome through [this registration form](#). **UN Staff for Gaza will first mobilize on 19 August 2025 at United Nations Headquarters, on the occasion of World Humanitarian Day**, to pay tribute to the 346 members of UN personnel killed in Gaza since 7 October 2023, as well the other 162 humanitarians killed while in service of humanity, and show solidarity with our colleagues on the ground.

UN Staff for Gaza is a private association, neither formally affiliated with nor endorsed by the United Nations. Persons involved with the initiative act in their private, unofficial capacities, **maintaining at all times the integrity, independence and impartiality required of international civil servants.**

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