

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 7, 2023 9:07 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** update on escalation in Israel-Palestine

Dear [REDACTED] colleagues,

I hope you are well. I'm writing with an update on the situation in Israel-Palestine. Following a long period of [escalation](#), primarily in the West Bank, with significant violence by Israeli soldiers and settlers and sporadic attacks by Palestinian gunmen, this morning armed groups in Gaza launched an attack on Israel that included rocket barrages on civilian areas, gun-fights in southern Israeli towns, and hostage-taking, including of families. The Israeli military then launched a massive air bombardment of the Gaza Strip. News reports say hundreds of people have been killed, including many civilians. This is the worst outbreak of violence in well over a decade, and the trend right now is toward significant further escalation

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We are still determining our research agenda and media response, but our main focus right now is on the need to refrain from further unlawful attacks on civilians and reminding people of the context for this latest escalation, in particular the ongoing crimes against humanity of [apartheid and persecution](#).

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Best,