

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **UN staff to demonstrate on Place des Nations in solidarity with colleagues killed in Gaza**

Place des Nations, Geneva / Thursday, 18 September 2025, 12:30–13:30

Since October 2023, at least 370 UN staff have been killed in Gaza, State of Palestine, the highest toll ever recorded in the history of the United Nations. Most were colleagues from UNRWA, many serving in their own communities. Hundreds more continue to risk their lives daily to deliver aid under extremely dangerous conditions. Communities — including UN colleagues and their families — are also facing famine, as warned by the UN Secretary-General.

The demonstration on the Place des Nations will:

- Honour the memory of our fallen colleagues.
- Show solidarity with survivors, their families, and all who continue to serve in Gaza and in Palestine more broadly.
- Reaffirm the call for protection of humanitarian personnel and respect for international humanitarian law.

The mobilization, organized by the Coordinating Committee for International Staff Unions and Associations (CCISUA) with support from ILO, UNHCR and UNOG Staff Unions and Associations will include a short statement, a moment of silence, and a symbolic tribute.

#### **Key Messages for Media**

- "This is the darkest moment in UN history for our colleagues. The loss of 370 staff in Gaza is not only a human tragedy, it is an unprecedented breach of the principle that humanitarian workers must be protected. On Thursday, we will honour the memory of our colleagues who were killed, stand in solidarity with the survivors and their families, and call on the international community to uphold its duty to safeguard humanitarian personnel." — Nathalie Meynet, President CCISUA
- "The killing of 370 UN personnel are not just losses of colleagues but of parents, educators, and dedicated community members. Aiding people in need, especially in the midst of such a humanitarian crisis with increasing famine, should never be criminalized. How much longer will the world count our dead instead of protecting the living?" — Severine Deboos, ILO Staff Union
- "How can it be that a country with a seat in the UN General Assembly can target and kill 370 of our colleagues with impunity? Member states have a collective duty to protect UN staff. The UNcommission of inquiry's finding of genocide makes this even more pressing." — Ian Richards, UNOG Staff Union

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