

UN warns of 'precarious' situation in Gaza after Israel tightens restrictions



United Nations, July 19 (RHC)-- The United Nations says that the freshly imposed restrictions by Israel on Gaza risk causing a "dramatic deterioration" in the enclave's humanitarian conditions.

"I am deeply concerned about the imposition of further restrictions at Kerem Shalom, which is the lifeline for Gaza's population, said Humanitarian Coordinator for the occupied Palestinian territory on Tuesday. He added that if the restrictions continue they may result in a severe deterioration of an already fragile situation, he added. "We are steps away from a disastrous deterioration, with potential broad impacts not only on Palestinians in Gaza, but the region."

"Everyone with the ability to improve the situation must take a step back, prevent further escalation and reduce the suffering of ordinary Palestinians in Gaza," he further noted.

Earlier in the day, Israeli minister of military affairs' office announced in a statement that Avigdor Lieberman had decided to halt fuel transfer into Gaza from Tuesday morning until Sunday.

The statement also noted that Israel had reduced the area where Gaza fishermen were allowed to fish,

from six nautical miles to three.

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