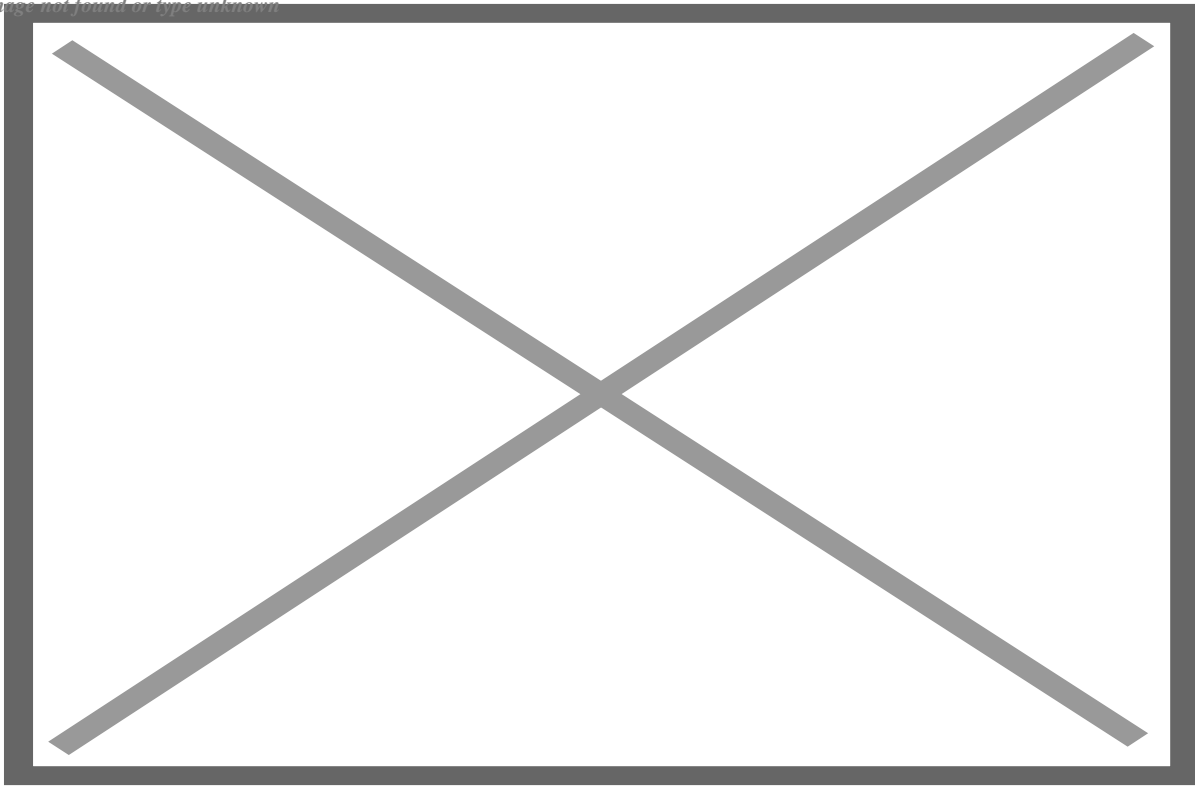


Lula welcomes Brazilians and relatives of Palestinians who escaped Israel's siege of Gaza

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Brasilia, November 13 (RHC)-- The president of Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, condemned the killing of children in the Gaza Strip by Israeli bombings, which have murdered more than 4,800 minors since the beginning of the offensive, on October 7th.

"I have never heard of news of children as preferential victims of a war; they throw bombs where there are children and where there are hospitals with the pretext that there is a terrorist there," said the president during an official act.

Meanwhile, he accused the occupation forces of killing innocent civilians "without any criteria."

He stressed that the response of Benjamin Netanyahu's government has been "just as serious," after the bombings have left more than eleven thousand Palestinians dead.

The Brazilian president confirmed that he personally received the Brazilians and relatives of Palestinians who arrived from Gaza aboard the presidential plane on Monday evening. He noted that 32 people managed to leave the conflict zone after crossing the border with Egypt, after more than three weeks of negotiations.

Lula affirmed that the evacuation was achieved with "a lot of sacrifice" because "it depended on Israel's goodwill." "Now we are going to see if there are still people in the West Bank," he assured. Brazil has repatriated 1,477 citizens, according to figures provided by the Presidency, since the escalation of the conflict began.

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