

# *Playing with fire*

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**The head of the United Nations spoke about the situation in Lebanon during a meeting of the Security Council. Image: AFP**

By Guillermo Alvarado

The Secretary General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, expressed concern about Israel extending its war against the civilian population of the Gaza Strip to Lebanon, which would cause a

regionalization of the war conflict.

Numerous experts have pointed out that if Tel Aviv increases its attacks on other targets outside Gaza, inevitably more countries, particularly Iran, will be forced to become involved in the war, which would have catastrophic consequences beyond the Middle East.

According to Guterres, the risk of open conflict in that region is real and must be avoided. A false step, he added, can cause a catastrophe that goes beyond imagination and it is time for the world to say loud and clear that war de-escalation is possible and essential.

Extending the war will only ensure greater suffering and devastation for communities in Lebanon and Israel and potentially cause catastrophic effects across the region, the official said.

The importance of putting an end to the Zionist attacks against Gaza, which cause extraordinary damage to the Palestinian population, cannot escape anyone.

An escalation beyond that enclave means internationalizing the conflict with serious consequences, especially if we take into account Israeli behavior, which is outside international regulations and conventions for cases of armed confrontations.

It cannot be forgotten that it is a nuclear power that boasts of violating the norms established by the international community, including the inspection of its facilities and the declaration of the amount of its atomic arsenals and of which no one guarantees that it is not willing to use them.

A somewhat reassuring factor is that the political position of the Zionist Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, within Israel is increasingly fragile due to the population's boredom with a war prolonged beyond what was expected and the danger that everything will collapse. get out of the way.

Last weekend, some 150,000 people demonstrated against the Israeli head of government in Tel Aviv, chanting slogans and signs with inscriptions such as "crime minister" and "stop the war."

Netanyahu's relations with the army leadership do not seem to be going very well either, and an example of this was the dissolution of the so-called "War Cabinet", which was the main link between the executive and the Armed Forces.

In any case, the war against Gaza continues and claims dozens of lives every day, in what is already a massive violation of human rights.

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