



20 July 2010
East Jerusalem

For immediate release

GAZA KIDS HEAD FOR MORE WORLD RECORD GLORY

On Thursday 22 July, thousand of kids in Gaza will attempt to smash the world record for the number of basketballs bounced simultaneously. This event is part of the “Summer Games” organized by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) involving some quarter of a million children across the Gaza Strip.

In a video message recorded specially for the world record, the United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon said, “I want to congratulate the children of Gaza for taking part in this great event. You are showing the world that if you are given the opportunity you can be number one”

Adding his voice of support, UNRWA’s Gaza Director, John Ging said, “I have total confidence that the kids of Gaza will break this world record. With their extraordinary determination and capacity to rise to a challenge, the children here can do anything.”

The current world record for simultaneously bouncing basket balls was set during the Hoosier Basketball Celebration in Indiana in September 2007. The number of balls bounced was just over three thousand. UNRWA hopes to double that record.

For the past month, bloggers from around the world have been invited to send messages of support and hope to the children of Gaza via www.facebook.com/unrwa

Not content with smashing just one world record, the kids of Gaza will attempt just a week later to break their own world record set during Summer Games last year for the number of kites flown simultaneously. “Two world records in a week is surely another world record in itself”, said Ging, “and I invite children everywhere to go to our blog and send support”.

*** Ends ***

Note to editors and correspondents:

UNRWA will be distributing a Video News Release on APTN's Global Video Wire to all AP Television News Clients free-of-charge via UNifeed at 5.45 p.m EST (10.45p.m GMT) on Tuesday, 20 July 2010. This will include:

- B-roll material of the Gaza children rehearsing for the basket ball world record attempt**
- A video message from the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon**
- A cartoon about the Great Global Gaza Bounce**
- Footage of the kite flying world record by Gaza children during last year's UNRWA Summer Games.**

Broadcast quality downloads will be available in PAL and NTSC from the UNifeed website - <http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/unifeed/>

For further information and interview requests please contact:

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Background information:

UNRWA's Summer Games, conducted for the fourth year with the full support and involvement of the community, is the largest recreation programme for Gaza's children, providing a diversified set of activities including sports, swimming, arts and crafts, theatre and drama. The Summer Games commenced on 12 June and will run through 5 August, providing 1,200 summer camps for over 250,000 refugee children across the Gaza Strip.

For up-to-date photos, videos and commentary on UNRWA and the Summer Games: <http://www.facebook.com/unrwa>

For Arabic speakers, a dedicated website provides information on the Games: <http://summergames.unrwa.ps/>

**UNRWA Public Information
East Jerusalem**