Written by Chris Perver
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These words were spoken by Palestinian Government Spokesman Dr. Ghazi Hamad, as reports emerged of the deaths of 18 Palestinians from Beit Hanoun in the Gaza Strip. Prime Minister Haniyeh has called for three days of mourning, has suspended talks on a Palestinian unity government, and is promising revenge. The IDF has stated they had fired shells into the Gaza Strip around the time of the incident, but not near the area in question, and is planning to carry out an investigation into the incident.

Quote: *"Hamad added that "this is not a country of humans. These are animals and a group of gangs, and this country must be wiped off the face of the earth." The Palestinian government was set to convene for an emergency meeting Wednesday morning following IDF's strike in Beit Hanoun. Meanwhile, Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh called on the United Nations Security Council to convene an emergency meeting.*

Whether the IDF are responsible or not for this shelling remains to be seen. The IDF carried out an investigation into a similar incident last June in which a family of seven was supposedly killed by an Israeli shell while "picnicking" on a Gaza beach . The deaths prompted immediate worldwide condemnation on Israel, but was later revealed that the most likely cause was a Palestinian land mine. Whoever is responsible for this incident, you can be sure Hamas will make the most of it.

Quote: *"A senior Hamas official urged Palestinians to carry out attacks inside Israel in response to the Gaza shelling. "The reaction is coming. (Israel) prepare the coffins and black body bags," Nizar Rayan, a hardline Hamas leader shouted to an agitated crowd outside a morgue in Beit Hanoun. "Revenge for the blood of martyrs is coming ... We urge our mujahideen to resume bombing attacks in* ***Jaffa, in Haifa, in Ashdod -- every place in our homeland*** *."*

Source YNet News , Jerusalem Post , Reuters