UNRWA refutes old accusations against its school in Rameh

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Statement by UNRWA Spokesperson Chris Gunness

Old accusations against UNRWA's school in Rameh, Syria have been recirculated following the attack in Nice yesterday. These centre on a Facebook posting of a vehicle ramming a group of people. The posting concerned is from an "imposter page" that was not authorized by UNRWA and was removed by Facebook nearly a year ago.

UNRWA has written formally to the government of France to express sympathy and condolences to the French people.

Background Information:

UNRWA is confronted with an increased demand for services resulting from a growth in the number of registered Palestine refugees, the extent of their vulnerability and their deepening poverty. UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions and financial support has been outpaced by the growth in needs. As a result, the UNRWA programme budget, which supports the delivery of core essential services, operates with a large shortfall. UNRWA encourages all Member States to work collectively to exert all possible efforts to fully fund the Agency's programme budget. UNRWA emergency programmes and key projects, also operating with large shortfalls, are funded through separate funding portals. UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by the General Assembly in 1949 and mandated to provide assistance and protection to some 5.4 million Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA across its five fields of operation. Its mission is to help Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip achieve their full human development potential, pending a just and lasting solution to their plight. UNRWA services encompass education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, protection and microfinance.