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## LWF URGENTLY CALLS FOR DE-ESCALATION OF TENSIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

As the conflict between Israel and Hamas enters its 11<sup>th</sup> month, news of planned ceasefire talks is being circulated. At the same time, negotiations are threatened by the constant rise in tensions in the region, with the grave potential for the spiral of violence to escalate and new parties to the conflict to enter open warfare.

Almost the entire population in Gaza has been displaced multiple times, aggression between Israel and Hezbollah is increasing and settler violence in the West Bank is becoming a daily event.

The LWF calls for active and rapid de-escalation and for all parties to the conflict and the international community to focus on an immediate ceasefire and finding pathways to peace.

We call on the parties to uphold International Humanitarian Law, facilitate humanitarian access, and recognize the humanity of all the populations of the Middle East. It is vital to recognize that there is little to gain for any party and everything to lose through an escalation of the conflict.