ICC vows to ‘take any action warranted’ over Gaza violence

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By AFP

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The chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court vows Tuesday that she is watching closely the unrest in Gaza and would “take any action warranted” to prosecute crimes.

“My staff is vigilantly following developments on the ground and recording any alleged crime that could fall within” the tribunal’s jurisdiction, Fatou Bensouda warns in a statement to AFP.

“The violence must stop,” she insists, urging “all those concerned to refrain from further escalating this situation and the Israel Defense Forces to avoid excessive use of force.”

The Palestinian Authority joined the ICC in January 2015, signing up to the Rome Statute which underpins the world’s only permanent war crimes court.

The Palestinians asked the prosecutor to investigate alleged crimes committed in the Gaza war the previous year, and Bensouda opened her inquiry just a few days later.

She recalls Tuesday that the “situation in Palestine is under preliminary investigation by my office.”

“I will be watching and I will take any action warranted by my mandate under the Rome Statute,” she warns, a day after one of the bloodiest days for years in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.