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DECIDES TO BUILD 400 SCHOOLS IN GAZA AND ACCUSES ISRAEL OF GENOCIDE
400-SKOLA-U-GAZI-I-OPTUZIO-IZRAEL-ZA-GENOCID/)

Swedish billionaire decides to build 400 schools in Gaza and accuses Israel of genocide

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IslamBosna.ba – Swedish billionaire **Roger Akelius** has announced a plan to build 400 schools in Gaza with the aim of lifting children in the besieged area out of what he describes as a difficult everyday life, stressing that many of them have lost their parents. He stressed that his goal is to provide education for 100,000 students despite the obstacles imposed by the occupation.

Roger Akelius is known for his continued support for the Palestinians and his condemnation of the war, which he describes as genocide, stressing that his motive is purely humanitarian and aimed at the suffering of children in Gaza. He stressed that he will persist with this initiative despite the expected political criticism, which he considers morally inevitable.

Swedish media have reported on significant financial support from **the Akelius Foundation** to **UNICEF** for projects in Gaza. The same foundation previously funded the construction of a school in Gaza worth around \$10 million.

According to the newspaper **Aftonbladet**, **UNICEF** has received a total of 1.2 billion kronor in Swedish support for Gaza, including 400 million kronor from the government and 800 million kronor (about \$75 million) from **the Akelius Foundation**, with an additional 20 million kronor from the Swedish Postal Lottery.

The newspaper reports that Sweden has become the second country in the world in terms of financial assistance to Gaza, right after the United Arab Emirates. The funds will be directed primarily to the restoration of the educational process, the construction of multifunctional educational centers, as well as programs for the health care of newborns and psychological support for children.

In a statement to **Aftonbladet**, **Roger Akelius** said: "Even a Palestinian orphan is just a child, sleepless, crying, longing and having stomachaches." He added: "I start crying when I see how the children of Gaza live. I have visited refugee camps before. The situation is much worse than what you see on TV or read in the newspapers."

UI Palestine Director **Jonathan Veitch** welcomed the "exceptional" support provided by the Swedish government and **the Akelius Foundation** through UNICEF Sweden, emphasizing its importance for restoring education in Gaza and, as he said, "restoring childhood and hope for the future" to children.

Minister for Trade and Development Assistance **Benjamin Dousa** warned that the situation remained extremely serious and that there was a danger that the international community, focusing on other conflicts, would neglect the children of Gaza. He stressed that the aim of the early announcement of this aid was to encourage other donors, especially European ones, to follow suit.

Akelius also clarified that there is no cooperation between his foundation and the government's aid program. Although he has previously criticized the authorities, this time he welcomed their decision, saying: "I think it is a strong move that Sweden is giving this money. The government has recently been known for building prisons for children and deporting those who turn 18 from the country."

Speaking about possible criticism, he added: "I will certainly be criticized again because we are donating 800 million for these children. They call me a socialist and accuse me of anti-Semitism. But one has to be firm and see what is happening, who is attacking whom and who is accused of genocide."

Sweden's aid plan for 2026 also includes funding for other United Nations programs, including \$10 million for **the World Food Program** to support school meals, and \$5 million for **the United Nations Development Program** to provide temporary housing for around a thousand Palestinian families.

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