



PRESS RELEASE

Secretary-General, 'Profoundly Alarmed' by Rise in Deadly West Bank Incidents, Calls on Israel to Conduct Prompt Investigation into Latest Killings

The following statement was issued today by the Spokesman for UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon:

The Secretary-General is profoundly alarmed by the growing number of deadly incidents in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The last few days of clashes, which resulted in the death of four Palestinians, including a 13-year-old boy, and hundreds injured, are yet another worrisome sign of violence potentially spiralling out of control. The Secretary-General condemns the killings and looks to the Government of Israel to conduct a prompt and transparent investigation into the incidents, including whether the use of force was proportional. He does not believe that the demolition of Palestinian houses or the construction of new Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land will do anything other than inflame tensions still further.

The escalation of violent incidents underscores the need for urgent action by both sides. The Secretary-General welcomes the commitment by Palestinian and Israeli officials to work together to curb the violence, including through continued security cooperation.

The Secretary-General reiterates the United Nations readiness to work with all parties to create the conditions on the ground, in the region and internationally, for a political horizon including meaningful negotiations towards a two-State solution.

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