



**Statement by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Mr. Robert Serry, on rocket fire from Gaza and increased tensions on the ground**

**Jerusalem, Wednesday, 03 April 2013**

The United Nations Special Coordinator, Mr. Robert Serry, is worried about the volatile situation on the ground, as exemplified by renewed firing of rockets from Gaza into Israel yesterday and this morning, and continued tensions over unresolved prisoner issues. It is of paramount importance to refrain from violence in this tense atmosphere and for parties to work constructively in addressing the underlying issues.

The renewed violations of the ceasefire risk undermining the ‘understanding’ reached between Israel and Gaza on 21 November, and unraveling the gradual but tangible improvements achieved since then in the easing of the closure and the security situation in Gaza and southern Israel. The United Nations condemns the indiscriminate firing of rockets into civilian areas and calls on Israel to act with restraint. The United Nations will continue to support Egyptian efforts to restore the calm and fully implement the ceasefire understanding as the only viable way to address the unsustainable situation in Gaza.

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