

Draft Presidential Statement
16 March 2006

Situation in the Middle East, including
The Palestine Question

The Security Council expresses its grave concern over the violence of 14 March 2006 in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, especially in Jericho. The Security Council deplores the violence in which several people including Palestinian officers have been killed and a number of international personnel have been kidnapped.

The Security Council calls upon both parties to exercise maximum restraint and to take urgent steps to restore calm.

The Security Council calls upon Israel to withdraw all its forces from Jericho and to return the situation ~~there~~ to that which existed prior to 14 March 2006.

The Security Council calls upon the parties to fully respect their obligations under the previous agreements, including the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, the Road Map and the Sharm Al Sheikh understandings.

The Security Council reaffirms its profound attachment to the vision of two states, Israel and an independent, viable and democratic Palestine, living side by side in peace and security.

The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.