



**Statement by Robert Serry, UN Special Coordinator for the  
Middle East Peace Process during his visit to Egypt**

**Cairo, 21 August 2011**

Today United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Robert Serry is holding consultations in Cairo with the Egyptian government, including H.E. Mohamed Amr, Minister of Foreign Affairs and General Murad Muwafi, Chief of Intelligence. He also called on H.E. Nabil El-Arabi, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States.

The Special Coordinator conveyed to the Government of Egypt his deep concern over the death of Egyptian security personnel during the tragic events that took place on 18 August. He expressed his deepest condolences to the families of those Egyptians who lost their lives. He recalled the United Nations' condemnation of the terror attacks on 18 August.

Mr. Serry remains worried about continuing tensions, in particular the escalation of violence in Gaza and southern Israel. He called for a return to full calm and the United Nations is actively engaged and supporting Egypt's important efforts in this regard.

Mr Serry also shared with his interlocutors the United Nations' growing concern over the current impasse in the Middle East peace process and discussed the importance of a legitimate and balanced framework supported by the international community that can carry forward efforts for a negotiated two State solution and the creation of a Palestinian state. He stressed the United Nations' strong opposition to recent Israeli settlement announcements in the occupied Palestinian territory, including in East Jerusalem, contrary to international law.

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