

**STATEMENT ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE SPOKESPERSON
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY IN OCCUPIED EAST JERUSALEM

The Secretary-General deplores yesterday's destruction of the Shepherd's Hotel in occupied East Jerusalem to make way for new settlement units in the heart of a Palestinian neighbourhood, which only serves to heighten tensions. It is deeply regrettable that growing international concern at unilateral expansion of illegal Israeli settlements is not being heeded. Such actions seriously prejudice the possibility of a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Secretary-General once again calls on the Government of Israel to take whatever steps are necessary to freeze settlement activity anywhere in occupied territory.

New York, 10 January 2011