



**Statement by Robert H. Serry**

**United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process**

**On efforts to calm the situation in Southern Israel and Gaza**

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**For Immediate Release**

"Following the recent escalation of tensions in Gaza and southern Israel, I and my team have been engaged in efforts to help de-escalate the situation. The UN does not want to see any renewed intensification of conflict and has been sending a message of utmost restraint and concern for the protection of civilians in Gaza and Israel. I am encouraged that we are hearing a clear desire from all concerned to de-escalate the situation and respect calm and I appeal for an end to acts of violence."

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For further details please contact:

Richard Miron

Mobile: +972 (0)54 5627825

Email: [mironr@un.org](mailto:mironr@un.org)