



Press Statement

**United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process,
Mr. Nickolay Mladenov, on Israel's "Legalization bill"**

Jerusalem, 6 December 2016

"The so-called "Legalization bill" has the objective of protecting illegal settlements and outposts built on private Palestinian property in the West Bank. Some have pronounced it to be a step towards the annexation of the West Bank.

If adopted, it will have far reaching legal consequences for Israel, across the occupied West Bank and will greatly diminish the prospect of Arab-Israeli peace.

I encourage Israeli legislators to reconsider this move.

I reiterate that all settlement activities are illegal under international law and run counter to the Middle East Quartet position that settlements are one of the main obstacles to peace."

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