

Statement by the United Nations Special Co-ordinator for the  
Middle East Peace Process, Alvaro de Soto

**The United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Alvaro de Soto, is deeply concerned at the escalating factional violence in the occupied Palestinian territory, particularly Gaza, and at reports that national dialogue is being suspended. He calls on all parties to cease clashes and comply with international humanitarian law by refraining from acts which endanger civilians. He encourages the resumption, without delay, of intra-Palestinian dialogue with a view to the early realisation of agreement on a national unity government with a realistic and positive platform regarding the basic principles of the peace process. Such a step would be in the vital interests of the Palestinian people, at a time when there appears to be a genuine prospect of re-launching a political process that focuses on defining the contours of a future independent Palestinian State and how to achieve it.**

**27.01.07**