SECRETARY-GENERAL ‘DEEPLY DEPLORES’ KILLING OF THREE CHILDREN IN GAZA, RESULTING FROM ISRAELI TARGETING OF ALLEGED MILITANTS

21 June 2006 - The following statement was issued today by the Spokesman for UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan

The Secretary-General deeply deplores the killing of three children and the injury of other bystanders in an attempted Israeli targeted killing of alleged militants in Gaza on 20 June. The Secretary-General calls on Israel to respect international law and to ensure that its actions are proportionate and do not put civilians at grave risk. The Secretary-General sends his condolences to the families of the dead and injured.

The Secretary-General is fully cognizant of Israel’s legitimate security concerns in light of continuing rocket fire, which endangers Israeli civilians, and calls on the Palestinian Authority to do all in its power to halt such actions.