

**Statement attributable to the Spokesman for the Secretary-General
on Israel**

New York, 1 September 2014

The Secretary-General is alarmed by yesterday's announcement by Israeli authorities to declare as so-called "state land" nearly 1,000 acres of land in the Bethlehem area of the West Bank.

The seizure of such a large swathe of land risks paving the way for further settlement activity, which – as the United Nations has reiterated on many occasions – is illegal under international law and runs totally counter to the pursuit of a two-state solution.

The Secretary-General calls on Israel to heed the calls of the international community to refrain from settlement activity and abide by its commitments under international law and the Quartet Road Map.

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