



**Statement by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process,
Mr. Nickolay Mladenov, on the announcement of the opening of Rafah crossing for three days**

Jerusalem, 11 June 2015

"I welcome Egypt's decision to open the Rafah crossing from 13 to 15 June in both directions, following consultations between President Abbas and the Egyptian authorities. I hope that the security conditions will allow for this decision to be extended and that Rafah can be open on a regular basis. The need for the full lifting of all closures however remains. A sustainable solution to address the situation also requires the return of control of the crossings in Gaza to the Palestinian Authority.

A permanent end to the suffering of the Palestinian people can only be achieved through an end to occupation and realization of the two-state solution in which Gaza is an integral part of the Palestinian state."

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