



**Statement by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process,
Mr. Robert Serry, on the murder of the three Israeli students in the West Bank**

Jerusalem, 1 July 2014

Upon my return yesterday night to Jerusalem, I learned about the horrible fate of the three abducted Israeli students, whose murder was strongly condemned by the United Nations Secretary-General.

My thoughts are with the bereaved families.

The perpetrators must be brought to justice, as any association with or support for terror or violence must be rejected and will have consequences for those concerned. In this regard, I continue to be deeply troubled by statements from Hamas representatives suggesting support for this heinous act.

I call on all sides to avoid steps that can further exacerbate an already tense atmosphere.

ENDS