



**Statement by the United Nations Special Coordinator
for the Middle East Peace Process, Mr. Robert Serry**

on Israeli settlement expansion

Jerusalem, 22 March 2014

The Special Coordinator is gravely concerned by the Government of Israel's reported plans to advance over 2,300 settlement units, many of which deep inside the West Bank. The Special Coordinator repeats that settlements are illegal under international law and cannot be reconciled with Israel's stated intention to pursue a two-state solution. This development is particularly unhelpful against the backdrop of a volatile situation on the ground and as US-led peace negotiations have reached a critical stage.

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