



**Statement by United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process,
Nickolay Mladenov, on escalating tensions and violence in Jerusalem**

Jerusalem, 20 July 2018

“I am deeply concerned by the recent surge in tensions and violence around the holy esplanade in the Old City of Jerusalem.

I welcome the commitment of Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu to uphold and respect the status quo at the holy sites, and Palestinian President Abbas’ firm condemnation of violence, specifically the deadly attack on two Israeli policemen on 14 July.

I hope these affirmations will contribute to resolving the concerns of all parties and put an end to the provocative rhetoric that has added to the escalation over the past week. I note the importance of the special role of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the historical role of King Abdullah II, as custodian of the Muslim and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem.

I call on all concerned parties to de-escalate the situation and on moderate voices to speak up against those who try to fuel tensions.”

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