



**Statement by UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process,
Tor Wennesland, on the situation in the Gaza Strip**

Jerusalem, 9 May 2023

"I am deeply alarmed by developments in Gaza after Israel launched a military operation this morning targeting members of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement (PIJ).

The Israeli airstrikes inside Gaza resulted in the killing of 13 Palestinians, including three members of PIJ, a doctor, five women and four children, and more than 20 injured.

I condemn the deaths of civilians in the Israeli airstrikes. This is unacceptable.

I urge all concerned to exercise maximum restraint and avoid an escalation. I remain fully engaged with all sides in an attempt to avoid a broader conflict with devastating consequences for all."

[ENDS]