



Press Release

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SECRETARY-GENERAL REITERATES CONDEMNATION OF ISRAEL'S WIDESPREAD

DESTRUCTION OF PALESTINIAN HOMES IN GAZA STRIP

Following is the text of a statement attributable to the Spokesman for Secretary-General Kofi Annan:

The Secretary-General reiterates his condemnation of Israel's widespread destruction of Palestinian homes in Rafah in the Gaza Strip. Recent reports from UN agencies assert that some 2,197 people have lost their homes in the first 15 days of May. In addition, there are reports of Israeli military plans for a more extensive round of house demolitions in Gaza. He repeats his call on the Government of Israel to fulfil its obligations under international law as it acts to ensure its security. As the occupying power, it must cease such acts of collective punishment immediately, and to refrain from further grave violations of international law.

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