



# Press Release

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Français

**SECRETARY-GENERAL 'STRONGLY CONDEMNS' ISRAEL'S ONGOING, WIDESPREAD  
DESTRUCTION OF PALESTINIAN HOMES IN GAZA**

The following statement was issued today by the Spokesman for Secretary-General Kofi Annan:

The Secretary-General strongly condemns Israel's ongoing and widespread destruction of Palestinian homes in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip. Reports cite the demolition of scores of buildings over the last two days, in addition to 130 residential buildings already destroyed this month. The Secretary-General has repeatedly called on the Government of Israel to address its security needs within the boundaries of international law. He urges Israel to uphold its obligations as an occupying power by immediately halting such actions, which are tantamount to collective punishment and a clear violation of international law.

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