



EUROPEAN UNION

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## **Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the latest escalation of violence between Gaza and Israel**

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission issued the following statement today:

*"I am very concerned by the latest escalation of violence between Gaza and Israel.*

*I condemn the firing of rockets and mortars into Israel, and call on both sides to refrain from exacerbating the situation. Further regrettable loss of life and injury must be avoided.*

*I support the mediation efforts by Egypt and reiterate that there is no place for violence in the Middle East. It is only through resumed negotiations that the legitimate aspirations of both Palestinians and Israelis will be met, through a two-state solution."*

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**P R E S S**

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