



PRESS RELEASE

**Statement by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process
Mr. Nickolay Mladenov, on escalating tensions in the Old City of Jerusalem
Jerusalem, 13 September 2015**

"I am particularly concerned by today's provocations and violence in and around the Holy Sites of the Old City of Jerusalem.

I urge all to do their part in ensuring that visitors and worshippers demonstrate restraint and respect for the sanctity of the area.

Political and religious leaders have a responsibility to act against extremists, who undermine the rule of law. I encourage all to stand firmly against incitement and violence, especially during the sensitive period of the Jewish High Holy Days and ahead of the Muslim Eid al-Adha.

I take note of the statement by the Prime Minister of Israel that the status quo at the Holy Sites will be maintained."

ENDS