

**Statement by the Spokesperson of UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East
Peace Process Robert Serry**

Jerusalem, 27 July 2009

The UN Special Coordinator, Robert Serry expressed his concern regarding developments on the ground in East Jerusalem, after the takeover yesterday of a Palestinian home in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood by Israeli settlers following an eviction order issued by the Israeli High Court. The recent upsurge in orders for house demolitions and evictions in East Jerusalem is contrary to the Roadmap and any settlement activity in East Jerusalem is contrary to international law, including the Fourth Geneva Conventions, and cannot prejudge the outcome of negotiations.

It is now of the utmost importance that favourable conditions are created for the early resumption and conclusion of negotiations, as called for by the Quartet. The Special Coordinator appeals for restraint by all sides and urges Israel to refrain from unilateral actions in East Jerusalem that risk inflaming an already tense situation and undermine confidence in the basis for a two-state solution.