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**Statement by
United Nations Special Coordinator on developments in Gaza**

Jerusalem, 15 July. The United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Mr. Alvaro de Soto, has followed the developments of the last 24 hours in the Gaza Strip very closely.

He condemns yesterday's Qassam rocket fire against Nativ ha'Assara, which killed an Israeli woman and left others wounded. The incident illustrated once again the imperative and urgency of ensuring security and ending violence.

The Special Coordinator notes that PA President Mahmoud Abbas is currently in the Gaza Strip. He hopes that his presence there will lead to energetic action and the early restoration of calm.

It is understandable that Israel should have felt it necessary to react strongly. In the coming period, all efforts should concentrate on restoring the quiet that has dominated in recent months.

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