



UN envoy alarmed by reports of Israeli settlers attacking Palestinian farmers

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43286&Cr=palestin&Cr1=#.UIIbtRzd6iF>

A top United Nations official on 14 October 2012 was alarmed about the recent report regarding the attack launched by the Israeli settlers toward the Palestinian farmers in the West Bank. From such action, hundreds of olive trees at the height of the harvest season.

The United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Robert Serry, will call on the government of Israel to bring the perpetrators to justice. Adding to his statement, he asks Israel to call to mind its commitment to protect Palestinians and their properties in the occupied territory.

Because of this never-ending feud, the Palestinian Authority (PA), was experiencing the consequences of the risk in the

form of severe financial and economic crisis. Instead of attacking the Palestinian farmers, Israel should help the PA to ensure its fiscal viability in the short and medium term.

Back in September 2010, the direct negotiation has been resumed by Israel and Palestine after the refusal of Israel to extend the freeze on settlement activity in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Negotiators from both sides began preparatory talks at the start of January in Amman, under the facilitation of King Abdullah II of Jordan and that country's Foreign Minister, Nasser Judeh, with a view to a resumption of direct talks.

(Samuel Yefsa Abednego)

Security Council extends mandate of UN peacekeepers in Haiti for another year

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43283&Cr=haiti&Cr1=#.UIIbzhzd6iF>

Security Council, on 12 October 2012, extended the UN peacekeeping mission in Haiti for another year. The overall force level will be reduced; instead, the involvement of the national police will have a bigger portion.

The UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) is decided unanimously by the 15 member of council to be extended until 15 October 2013 with the aim to restore the security and stabilization of the environment, importantly, the political stability, government, and rule-of-law-structures.

It also decided that MINUSTAH's overall force levels will consist of up to 6,270 troops – reduced from the authorized military strength of 7,340 – of all ranks through “a balanced withdrawal” of infantry and engineering personnel, and of a police component of up to 2,601 personnel, consistent with the

proposals in Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's most recent report. Further, the responsibility of the security step-by-step will be handed over to formed police unit (which is already completed in four of the ten departments), and to the national police. Mr. Ban added that the transition model has already proved effective. Mr. Ban further statement said that the empowerment of the national police would be a key prerequisite for the Mission's eventual withdrawal from Haiti.

The Security Council establishes MINUSTAH in June 2004. In addition to its mandated tasks, it has been helping support Haiti's authorities with recovery efforts in the wake of massive earthquake which struck in January 2010.

(Samuel Yefia Abednego)

At meeting on food security, UN says goal for reducing world's hungry by half still reachable

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43290&Cr=food+security&Cr1=#.U1iboltzd6iF>

The United Nations is optimistic that the target for reducing the proportion of hungry people around the world by half can still be reached. This is achievable if the countries boost up their effort to reduce the hunger.

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Jose Graziano da Silva, stated that progress successfully been made in cutting of the hungry people by 132 million since 1990. The proportion of those hungry in developing world also reduced by 8.3 percent, from 23.2 to 14.9, in the developing world over the same period.

The CFS, an intergovernmental body established in 1974, serves as a forum for review and follow up of food security policies. It is now the world's leading platform for discussions on food security issues. To be a reliable body on reviewing world hunger, it is open to participation by civil society, private sector, and international and regional organizations concerned with related issues.

18 government ministers from around the world are expected to attend this year's session. Regarding this gathering, Mr. Graziano da Silva said that efforts were necessary in realizing the goal of the UN's Millennium Development Goals' (MDGs) 2015 deadline for decreasing the number of hungry worldwide.

"As we renew and increase our commitment to reach the Millennium Development Goal for hunger reduction, let's look beyond it, towards the total eradication of hunger because, when it comes to hunger, the only acceptable number is 'zero,'" he said.

The eight MDGs assigned specific targets on diminishing poverty, education, gender equality, health, environmental stability, HIV/AIDS reduction, and a 'Global Partnership for Development.'

FAO chief expressed by the 2012's report almost 870 million people, or in eight, are still suffering from chronic

malnutrition.

The UN Secretary-General urged big effort in fighting the global hunger, and pointed to his “Zero Hunger Challenge”, which is established at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Brazil in June.

The essence of the Challenge is where the individual has sufficient and the well-established

food system. Its five objectives are to make sure that everyone in the world has access to enough nutritious food all year long; to end childhood stunting; to build sustainable food system; to double the productivity and income of smallholder farmers, especially women; and to prevent food from being lost or wasted.

(Samuel Yefia Abednego)