

**Statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General
on violence in southern Israel and the Gaza Strip**

The Secretary-General condemns the terrorist attack today by Palestinian militants against the Nahal Oz depot in southern Israel, in which two Israeli civilian contractors working to supply fuel to the Gaza Strip were killed and others injured.

He is gravely concerned at the prospect of an escalation in violence, and, while recognising Israel's legitimate right to self-defense, deplores the reported civilian casualties among Palestinians during Israeli military operations this afternoon. The United Nations calls for the protection of all civilians in the conflict.

New York, 9 April