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**Statement by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Mr. Robert Serry, on repeated attacks on Palestinian farmers in the West Bank**

Jerusalem, 14 October 2012

I am alarmed at recent reports that Israeli settlers in the West Bank have repeatedly attacked Palestinian farmers and destroyed hundreds of their olive trees at the height of the harvest season. These acts are reprehensible and I call on the Government of Israel to bring those responsible to justice. Israel must live up to its commitments under international law to protect Palestinians and their property in the occupied territory so that the olive harvest – a crucial component of Palestinian livelihoods and the Palestinian economy – can proceed unhindered and in peace.

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