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Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
pour le Liban

**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Michael C. Williams
Statement following Meeting with Prime Minister-designate Najib Miqati
Beirut, Lebanon**

Monday, 16 May 2011

Good afternoon,

I just met with Prime Minister-designate Najib Miqati. Our talks naturally focused on the situation that evolved into bloodshed along the Blue Line area as well as the developments along Lebanon's northern border and the situation in the region at large.

I am shocked by the number of the deaths and the use of disproportionate, deadly force by the Israeli Defense Forces against apparently unarmed demonstrators, which I condemn. I would like to convey my condolences to the families of those killed.

Yesterday's serious incidents along the Blue Line represent the worst violence since the cessation of hostilities between Lebanon and Israel in August 2006.

I strongly reiterate the need for all sides to exercise maximum restraint, to prevent the recurrence of such violence and to strictly adhere to resolution 1701. As Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said yesterday, the status quo in the Arab-Israeli conflict is not sustainable. There is no alternative to just, lasting and comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace, which ensures dignity and security for all, including and especially, Palestinian refugees.

The United Nations is also closely monitoring the evolving situation along Lebanon's northern border and stands ready to lend its assistance to address the humanitarian needs of any displaced Syrian people in that area. I emphasized the need for adequate preparations by the Lebanese authorities and welcomed the steps that have been taken in this regard.

In light of these developments, I stress my belief that it is critical to form a government in Lebanon as soon as possible to ensure that the country can address the security, political and economic challenges facing it.

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