[UN envoy calls for de-escalation of tensions and violence in Jerusalem](#)

20 July 2017 – Expressing deep concern over a surge in tensions and violence around the holy esplanade of Jerusalem's Old City, the United Nations envoy on Middle East peace today called for de-escalation of the situation.

&#8220I call on all concerned parties to [de-escalate the situation](#) and on moderate voices to speak up against those who try to fuel tensions,&#8221 said Nickolay Mladenov, the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, in a statement.

He welcomed the commitment of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to uphold and respect the status quo at the City's holy sites, and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' firm condemnation of violence, specifically the [deadlt attack](#) on two Israeli policemen on 14 July.

&#8220I hope these affirmations will contribute to resolving the concerns of all parties and put an end to the provocative rhetoric that has added to the escalation over the past week,&#8221 Mr. Mladenov said, noting the importance of the special role of Jordan and the historical role of King Abdullah II, as custodian of the Muslim and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem.