

PRESS RELEASE

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
concerning the Middle East**

After the appalling acts committed this morning in Ramallah, the reprisals carried out by the Israeli army in Ramallah and Gaza bring with them a serious risk of a general flare-up of violence.

The European Union considers it imperative for all those in positions of authority to regain their composure and call an immediate halt to the spiral of violence.

The European Union will do everything in its power to prevent further escalation. It fully supports the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General and of Mr Solana to that end.

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