

P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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**Declaration by the Heads of State and Government of the European Union  
on the situation in the Middle East**

Given the real danger of a general flare-up, we address a solemn appeal to the Israeli and Palestinian leaders and peoples to stop the escalation and bring an immediate end to all violence.

All parties must demonstrate political courage and responsibility so that reason and tolerance prevail over fear, hatred and extremism before the point of no return is reached.

There is for the Prime Minister of Israel and the President of the Palestinian Authority no other way than that of peace and negotiation on the basis of what has been achieved at Camp David, which it is essential to preserve. The peace process must be saved.

Time is running out. We call on the parties to participate, in a constructive spirit, in a summit meeting, in order to secure the urgent resumption of the dialogue.

The European Union, which more than ever remains committed to peace, fully supports the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. We are requesting Mr. Javier Solana, Secretary-General/High Representative for the CFSP, to continue his mission in the region.

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Internet: <http://ue.eu.int/Newsroom>  
E-mail: [press.office@consilium.eu.int](mailto:press.office@consilium.eu.int)

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