

UNITED NATIONS



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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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REMARKS ON ARRIVAL IN COSTA RICA

San Jose, 30 July 2014

09:00

**Su Excelencia, Luis Guillermo Solís, Presidente de la República
de Costa Rica,**

Primera Dama, María Mercedes Peñas Domingo,

**Su Excelencia, Manuel González, Ministro de Relaciones
Exteriores,**

[“Soo Ex-el-en-see-ya Loo-ees Gee-er-mo Sew-lis, Pres-ee-den-the
de la Republica Costa Rica,

Pree-mer-ah Dam-ah, Maria Mercedes Penyas Domingo”

Soo Ex-se-el-en-see-ya Manuel Gonzales, Me-nee-stroh de re-la-
see-yon-es es-ter-ee-or-es”]

Es un placer para mi realizar mi primer viaje a Costa Rica como Secretario General y estar en su hermoso pais. [“Eh soon pla-sehr pah-rah mee reh-ah-lee-sahr mee pree-mehr vee-ah-hay ah Costa Rica coh-moh seh-creh-tarr-ee-oh hay-nay-rall ee ehs-tarr en soo ehr-moh-so pah-ees.” “It is a pleasure for me to make my first visit to Costa Rica as Secretary-General and see your beautiful country.”]

Estoy muy feliz de estar en Costa Rica. [“Es-toy mu-wee fell-ees de es-tar en Costa Rica.” “I am very happy to be in Costa Rica.”]

Thank you for the warm welcome.

I am here to thank Costa Rica for its engagement in solving the many problems on our global agenda. And I look forward to strengthening the partnership between Costa Rica and the United Nations even more going forward.

I will be holding talks with the President and the Foreign Minister. And I look forward to participating in a bicycle event with RAMU.

I look forward to speaking to the press more after my programme.

LtG, SyS.

However first I must denounce the latest tragic developments in Gaza.

This morning, yet another UN school sheltering thousands of Palestinian families suffered a reprehensible attack.

All available evidence points to Israeli artillery as the cause.

Nothing is more shameful than attacking sleeping children.

At least 16 civilians are dead and many more are injured.

I want to make it clear that the precise location of this Jabalia Elementary Girls School had been communicated to the Israeli military 17 times – as recently as last night, just a few hours before the attack.

Families had been instructed to seek sanctuary at UN sites – including the one repeatedly shelled today.

I condemn this attack in the strongest possible terms. It is outrageous. It is unjustifiable. And it demands accountability and justice.

I repeat yet again my call on Israel and all parties to do vastly more to ensure the safety of these UN sites and the security of the women, children and families who have sought protection there.

I call on the parties to stop the fighting and agree on an immediate, unconditional ceasefire.

***Muchas gracias.* Thank you.**

[END]