



UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY

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PRESS STATEMENT**

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Palestinian child shot while playing at home

Jerusalem - This Friday morning a 13 -year old Palestinian child was shot and seriously wounded as he was playing near his parents' house in Aida refugee camp, near the town of Bethlehem.

At around 12:00hrs, Miras Nidal Azzeh was struck by a bullet in the upper abdomen area, seriously injuring him. At least three bullets were fired in his direction from an Israeli army observation tower overlooking the refugee camp.

Miras was taken to al-Yamama Hospital in the nearby village of al-Khader for the removal of the bullet. He was operated upon and is listed in serious but stable condition.

Condemning the shooting, UNRWA's West Bank Field Director, Anders Fange described it as a "reckless and irresponsible act that shows flagrant disregard for human lives. Children are not safe even at home."

As UNRWA gears up for its annual Host and Donors meeting next week in the Jordanian capital, Amman, at which Palestinian youth issues will be addressed, Anders Fange stressed that this latest tragedy underscores the need for an international protection mechanism to protect the civilian population, including children.

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For information only

Note: For more information please contact Sami Mshasha at 0542168295