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United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia

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**STATEMENT OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UN FOR GEORGIA**

The United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) voices its concern over the developments of the past few days in the Gali district, including the 25 December attack by an improvised explosive device on the M-27 highway that killed two representatives of the Abkhaz de facto militia; and the killing of a third one in lower Gali on 26 December.

The Mission condemns these and all acts of violence. It reiterates its conviction that such violence is deeply detrimental to the interests of both sides, let alone those of the Gali residents and internally displaced persons.

Previously, the two sides have cooperated across the ceasefire line on criminal and other matters. The Mission calls upon them to work together in identifying and bringing to justice those responsible. It also appeals to them to engage in dialogue in order to prevent any escalation of the situation on the ground. The Mission stands ready to assist in this respect.

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