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(Statement by Press Secretary KOBAYASHI Maki)

On an Israeli Minister's Declaration of Land in the Jordan Valley as "State Lands"

1 The Government of Japan expresses its deep concern and profound regret over the recent announcement by an Israeli minister in which over 800 hectares of land in the Jordan Valley were declared as "state lands".

2 Settlement activities are in violation of international law and undermine the viability of a two-state solution. The Government of Japan strongly urges the Government of Israel to retract the declaration and fully freeze its settlement activities, and once again calls for the need to refrain from actions that escalate tensions, while the Gaza Strip is in the critical humanitarian situation and violence and clash are occurring in the West Bank.