



Security Council

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Identical letters dated 7 October 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write with great urgency regarding an extensive murderous terror attack against Israel perpetrated by the Palestinian terror group Hamas in the past hours against the citizens of Israel, thereby launching a murderous attack against Israel.

This morning, on Saturday, 7 October, during the holiday of Simchat Torah, Hamas fired massive rocket barrages – numbering in the thousands – from the Gaza Strip into Israeli territory. Concurrently, Palestinian terrorists infiltrated Israeli towns and roamed the streets, while murdering and kidnapping innocent men, women and children. This is an extensive terrorist attack on the civilian population in Israel in the midst of Simchat Torah, when Israelis were on their way to synagogue to celebrate with their communities and families.

As part of the attack, which continues at this moment, Hamas is firing rockets towards cities from Israel's south, all the way to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv – the rocket fire is widespread and indiscriminate, with the sole intention of targeting Israel's civilian population. At this time, Hamas terrorists infiltrated Israeli territory in order to harm and murder civilians to the maximum extent.

This is an attack initiated by terrorist organizations led by Hamas, and this horrendous attack proves once more that Hamas has no interest in the safety and well-being of the residents of the Gaza Strip. Hamas is a murderous Islamist terrorist organization which follows the same Jihadist genocidal ideology of ISIS and whose only purpose is to destroy the State of Israel and its people. The terrorist organization is directed by the Ayatollah regime in Iran, which proactively promotes terrorist activity in Israel and against Israeli and Jewish targets all over the world. Iran supports and finances Hamas and other terrorist organizations in Gaza, providing various weapons to the terrorist organization, which were brutally turned against innocent Israeli civilians today. Hamas operates knowingly and deliberately from within densely populated areas and adjacent to humanitarian buildings and institutions to make a cynical use of them, committing murderous war crimes – indiscriminately shooting at civilians while using its people as human shields. Hamas holds the sole responsibility and will bear the results of these events.

For years, we have reported to the international community, including the Security Council and United Nations officials and agencies, the ongoing terror attacks and incitements against Israel by Palestinian terror organizations. It is now time for the international community, including the Security Council, to unequivocally condemn the appalling terror attacks carried out by Hamas and all terrorist



organizations against the civilians of Israel. Israel expects and demands the solidarity and support of all those in the international community who oppose this barbaric terrorism and the targeting of innocent men, women and children for slaughter. It will not tolerate moral equivalence between those defending against this terrorism and those perpetrating it. There can be no option other than zero tolerance for Hamas' war crimes and genocidal agenda.

The state of Israel will act in any way necessary to protect its citizens and sovereignty from the ongoing terrorist attacks originating from the Gaza Strip and carried out by Hamas and other terrorist organizations. We will not stand idly by as Israelis are attacked and killed. What would any country do when terrorists kidnap citizens from their towns?

The United Nations Security Council must immediately condemn Hamas. Now.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gilad **Erdan**
Ambassador of Israel to the United Nations
