



SIXTH COMMITTEE

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

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Statement by

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The Scope and Application of Universal Jurisdiction

Agenda Item 84

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Thank you, Mr. Chair,

It is with great pain that we join in the discussion on this important topic today. Israel appreciates the Sixth Committee's continued work on this significant agenda item and recognizes the Secretary-General's substantive efforts to collate valuable information regarding combatting impunity and the scope and application of universal jurisdiction.

Israel views this topic with great importance, and has consistently voiced its principled position on this matter in our previous statements.

However, this year we cannot address this topic without discussing the horrific events of the past few days, which are still ongoing, are incomprehensible. The immoral, cruel, and barbaric Hamas is a murderous terrorist organization. It has killed 1300 Israelis and wounded over 3000, including civilians from many UN member states present in this room.

In addition, Hamas has taken hostage men, women, and children including the elderly into Gaza. These horrific actions taken against the civilian population constitute grave war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The inhumane atrocities are apparent from the rubble that remains and cries out to the heavens. The surviving civilians in recent days are sharing their horror stories as to how they survived, and describe the cruel and barbaric massacre that took place. One witness described after Kibbutz Beerli was secured: "I saw hundreds of terrorists in full armour, going from house to house, from room to room and killing babies, mothers, and fathers in their bedrooms."

Mr. Chair,

As Israel and Member States begin to consider what measures may be taken, it is painfully clear to all that Hamas committed grave international crimes - and continues to do so. Those responsible must be held accountable for their actions.

Israel thanks the international community for their support during this anguishing time.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.