

**Security Council**

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Identical letters dated 29 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am writing to bring to your attention a matter of grave concern.

Since the early morning, dozens of rockets and mortar shells were fired from the Gaza Strip at Israeli population centres, as a continuation of Hamas and Islamic Jihad's terror activities. These sustained attacks have continued unabated throughout the day.

A number of these attacks on Israeli cities and towns adjacent to the Gaza Strip took place as parents were preparing their young children for the school day. One of the shells exploded in the yard of a kindergarten, causing extensive damage to the building. This was the result of the deliberate targeting of civilians, including children, by the terrorists.

The Israel Defense Forces has targeted the terror infrastructure of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, including a terror tunnel dug by Hamas adjacent to the Kerem Shalom humanitarian crossing. We will continue to take all necessary steps to protect our citizens.

For weeks, we have warned that the violent riots along the security fence with Gaza, which included improvised explosive devices and the firing of weapons at our security forces, were not spontaneous protests, but rather part of a coordinated violent attack against the State of Israel. The shells and rockets fired at our citizens leave no doubt about the true intentions of those who incited, encouraged and even paid for these ongoing riots. Hamas actions have led not only to attacks on our citizens, but to extensive damage to the civilian infrastructure of the residents of Gaza, including their electricity supply.

In the interest of restoring calm and protecting civilians on both sides of the fence, I request that you strongly condemn Hamas and hold the terrorist organization accountable for these latest attacks.

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

(Signed) Danny **Danon**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

