



Security Council

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Identical letters dated 6 June 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Following Israel's recent celebration of Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day), I write to reiterate to the Security Council that Jerusalem is the capital of the State of Israel.

Since King David made Jerusalem the capital of the Kingdom of Israel 3,000 years ago, the Jews have always lived in, built and defended the Holy City. It was Jerusalem that served as the centre of Hebrew prophecy, elevating humanity to new spiritual levels. Even after the Jews lost their sovereignty in the Land of Israel to the Roman sword, they still maintained a presence in Jerusalem, generation after generation.

When the Arabs rejected United Nations resolution 181 (II) in 1947, the local Arab population, soon to be reinforced by foreign Arab forces, attacked the Jewish Quarter of the Old City and expelled its Jewish population. For 19 years, Jerusalem's Old City was separated from its western neighbourhoods by mines and barbed wire, with its Jewish population under constant threat of snipers from the other side. It was not until 1967, when Israel overcame yet another Arab attempt to destroy the Jewish State, that Israel succeeded in reuniting and liberating Jerusalem. In doing so, as I detailed in my Security Council speech of 29 April, Israel did not cross an international border, given that the 1949 armistice agreement between Israel and Jordan stated explicitly that the line crossed was not, and would never be, a border.

For the last 52 years, Jerusalem has been a city that champions and protects religious freedom and the right of all worshippers to pray in peace. This reality, unique in our region, exists only in the Jewish and democratic Israel. It is time for the international community to recognize that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel.

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

