



Security Council

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Identical letters dated 12 November 2019 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 with the uttermost urgency. During the early hours of Tuesday morning (GMT+3), 12 November, the Israel Defense Forces took action against the senior Palestinian Islamic Jihad commander Baha Abu al-Ata. The decision to conduct the operation was a defensive response to Baha Abu al-Ata planning additional attacks targeting southern Israel in the near future.

Abu Al-Ata was a “ticking bomb”. He was the primary instigator and coordinator of countless terrorist attacks carried out by Palestinian Islamic Jihad from the Gaza Strip. He was responsible for the launching of hundreds of rockets targeting Israeli civilian communities.

Since this morning, over 180 rockets have been launched from the Gaza Strip, indiscriminately targeting Israeli civilian communities. As a direct result of the ongoing rocket fire, over 1 million Israeli civilians are currently sitting in bomb shelters.

The indiscriminate rocket fire by terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip constitutes a double war crime: targeting Israel’s civilian population and launching the rockets from within Gaza’s civilian neighbourhoods and institutions, using the local Palestinian population as human shields.

Nine million Israeli civilians are under a relentless attack by terrorist organizations in Gaza. We expect a clear and unequivocal condemnation of the party responsible for the recent attacks, and not a message calling upon both parties to show restraint. It is time that the international community realizes that silence in the face of such attacks encourages terrorism.

It should be noted that the Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorist organization, as designated by Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Union, Japan, New Zealand and Israel, is responsible for hundreds of innocent Israeli civilian casualties, is directed and financed by Iran and acts as its proxy in the area.

Israel is not interested in the escalation of the situation but will adamantly and vigorously continue to fight terrorism and defend its civilians.

I call upon the Security Council to condemn unequivocally the indiscriminate attacks by terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip against Israeli civilians and Israeli population centres.



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
