



Security Council

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Identical letters dated 9 May 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Last night, in response to a barrage of over 100 rocket attacks launched last week (2 and 3 May) against the civilian population in southern Israel, as well as numerous terror attacks carried out against civilians, the Israel Defense Forces launched “Operation Shield and Arrow”, a targeted operation against senior members of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorist organization in the Gaza Strip.

Israel acted in a precise and limited manner against senior military officials in the Palestinian Islamic Jihad who were directly responsible for facilitating attacks and launching rockets and missiles against Israelis, in order to protect Israel’s citizens and thwart the planned attacks.

Three senior members of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip were eliminated:

- Jahed Ahnam – Secretary of the Military Council of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad who was actively involved in directing and promoting terrorist activities
- Khalil Bahitini – Commander of the northern region of the Gaza Strip in the Palestinian Islamic Jihad who was actively engaged in promoting offensive attacks from Gaza into Israeli territory, including the rocket fire last week and other events
- Tarek Az Aldin – responsible for directing terrorist attacks of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad in Judea and Samaria from the Gaza Strip, he worked to establish military infrastructure in the West Bank and was actively involved in planning, directing and inciting terrorist acts in this area, including recruiting terrorists

In parallel, Palestinian Islamic Jihad weapon production sites and military compounds in the Gaza Strip were targeted. These sites were munitions warehouses and provided logistical infrastructure for the terrorist organization.

The Palestinian Islamic Jihad organization uses the citizens of the Gaza Strip as human shields – they hide their rockets among the civilian population, use private houses as situation rooms and fire from dense urban areas. It is designated a terrorist organization by Australia, Canada, the European Union, Japan, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States and Israel.

The operation was a targeted action against an active terrorist infrastructure that posed an imminent threat. The State of Israel is not interested in an escalation.



However, Israel has the right and duty to defend its people and sovereignty and will continue to do so vigorously.

I call upon the Security Council to condemn the indiscriminate rocket attacks on Israeli civilians launched from Gaza and to support Israel in our legitimate right to self-defence.

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
