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**General Assembly  
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Agenda item 74**Promotion and protection of human rights****Security Council  
Seventy-sixth year****Letter dated 6 October 2021 from the Permanent Representatives  
of Israel and Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to  
the Secretary-General**

These days the international community commemorates the eightieth anniversary of the massacre of Babyn Yar – one of the most heinous manifestations of the Holocaust perpetrated upon the territory of Ukraine.

Just before the holiest date in the Jewish calendar, Yom Kippur, Babyn Yar was turned by the Nazis into a place of mass execution. According to the official data, in just two days – 29 and 30 September 1941 – 33,771 Jewish victims were murdered in Babyn Yar by the Nazis and their collaborators. Tens of thousands of Jews, as well as Ukrainians, Roma and representatives of other ethnic communities, members of the anti-occupation resistance movement, prisoners of war and clergy, were killed at Babyn Yar throughout the Nazi occupation of Kyiv. The number of victims murdered at Babyn Yar is estimated to be 70,000 at least, making it one of Europe's largest murder sites.

Despite attempts to erase the horrible evidence of the crimes and restrict remembrance of the terrible events at Babyn Yar, over the years it eventually became a powerful symbol of the Holocaust and serves as an eternal reminder of the need for concerted efforts to prevent the revival of racism, antisemitism, ethnic hatred and inhumane totalitarian ideologies. It also reminds us of the continued relevance and vital importance of keeping the memory of the innocent victims of Nazism alive.

Ukraine therefore strives to ensure Babyn Yar's status as a worthy place of remembrance of the millions of victims murdered on its territory in 1941–1944. It is absolutely essential not to forget the terrible outcomes of the crimes of the Nazis and their collaborators, so that similar tragedies do not happen again.

Israel, as the ancient homeland and contemporary State of the Jewish people, devotes extensive and consistent efforts to the enhancement of relevant and meaningful Holocaust remembrance and education – in Babyn Yar, throughout Europe and, increasingly, all over the world. It also facilitates well-documented historical research.



Babyn Yar remains one of the deepest unhealed wounds for Jews, Ukrainians and Roma, a sacred place awakening historical memory. While honouring the blessed memory of the victims there, as well as of all those who died at the hands of the Nazis and their collaborators, we call upon the international community to join the commemoration and thus do justice to the memory of the victims and contribute to restoring and preserving historical truth. International solidarity and unity of purpose must ensure that such heinous crimes against humanity never happen again.

We would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 74, and of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Gilad **Erdan**  
Ambassador of the State of Israel to the United States  
and the United Nations

*(Signed)* Sergiy **Kyslytsya**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations

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