



Security Council

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Identical letters dated 4 May 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to address, with great alarm, the acts of terror perpetrated against Israel by Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the other terrorist organizations in Gaza over the past 24 hours.

Snipers of these terrorist organizations shot and injured two Israeli soldiers at the security fence separating Gaza and Israel, as violent rioters continued to attack the fence with the goal of breaching it. Subsequently, over the past 24 hours, Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other terrorist organizations in Gaza have fired over 200 rockets into Israel, hitting major towns and civilian population centres, including Ashkelon, Ashdod and Beit Shemesh.

Israel's Iron Dome air defense system successfully intercepted tens of rockets, saving countless lives. Some of the rockets, however, hit civilian areas, leaving an 80-year-old woman from Kiryat Gat with severe facial injuries and a 50-year-old man with lower body injuries, and causing the evacuation of 20 others to Barzelai Hospital for trauma. Other rockets landed directly on private homes.

The Israel Defense Forces have responded by targeting 30 terrorist outposts and facilities in Gaza, including weapons-manufacturing and naval facilities. They have also destroyed a terror-attack tunnel originating in the town of Rafa in Gaza, which was constructed for the purpose of carrying out an attack on civilians in a nearby town on the Israeli side.

The State of Israel has the duty and the full right to do all that is necessary to protect our people and our sovereignty, and we will continue do so at all times. This severe escalation by the terrorist organizations in Gaza takes place in the wake of Holocaust Remembrance Day and in anticipation of Israel's Memorial Day, Independence Day and the hosting of the international Eurovision contest. We will never tolerate deliberate acts of terror against our country and our people.

I call on the Security Council to take this opportunity to finally condemn terrorism against Israel, to designate Hamas as a terrorist organization and to support the fundamental right of Israel to self-defense.

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

