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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
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Letter dated 18 November 1981 from the Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your urgent attention to yet another tragic example of the unceasing campaign of political assassination carried out by PLO terrorists against Arabs in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District who favour living in peace with Israel.

On 17 November 1981, Yusuf al-Khatib, the head of a village association in the Ramallah area, north of Jerusalem, and his son, Katim, were ambushed by PLO gunmen while driving to Ramallah. Katim al-Khatib was hit and killed instantly, while his father was seriously wounded in the head and abdomen.

A PLO spokesman immediately took responsibility for this cold-blooded act of terror, on the PLO radio in Lebanon. He warned that the PLO would continue with its systematic campaign to intimidate and silence Arab leaders in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District who oppose terrorism and favour peace with Israel. In operating in this manner, the PLO is following the violent tradition of its mentor, the notorious Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin al-Husseini, who, in the 1920s and 1930s, had no compunction about terrorizing and liquidating his political rivals. All told, PLO terrorism has claimed the lives of almost 400 Arabs since 1966, and wounded and maimed almost 2,000 others.

Details of this campaign are to be found in my letter to you of 27 November 1980 (A/35/666). The horrible catalogue of murders listed in that letter includes the slaying of Abd al-Nur Janho, a member of the Ramallah municipality, in February 1978; of Sheik Hashem Khuzander, the Imam of Gaza, in June 1979; and of Muhammad Abu Warde, the Deputy Mayor of Jabelieh, in the town of Gaza in November 1980. All of those done to death by the PLO were guilty of only one sin - openly supporting peaceful coexistence with Israel.

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The pattern of these criminal acts is clear, as is their purpose. They are aimed, deliberately and coldly, at frustrating as far as possible the ongoing peace process in the Middle East. For peace with Israel - and within that framework, any solution to the question of the Palestinian Arabs living in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District - is anathema to the PLO, whose only raison d'être is the perpetuation of violence and hatred between Arab and Jew.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yehuda Z. BLUM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations
