

**Security Council**

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Identical letters dated 1 September 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On the eve of the resumption of direct peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians, I write to inform you of a very serious incident in the Middle East that threatens the peace and security of our region.

On 31 August 2010, Palestinian terrorists affiliated with the Hamas terrorist organization opened fire on a vehicle travelling on Route 60 near the community of Kiryat Arba. The four civilian passengers — Talya Imes, 45 years old; Yitzhak Imes, 47 years old; Avishai Shindler, 24 years old; and Kochava Even Chaim, 37 years old, who was pregnant — were murdered in the attack. Augmenting this tragedy, those killed were parents of seven children, who are now orphans.

This latest incident is a deadly reminder of the dangerous terrorist threats emanating from the West Bank, as well as from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip. These murders reflect Hamas' and other terrorist organizations' aim to kill Israeli civilians and to derail any peace negotiations. The attack further demonstrates the security needs that are required precisely to address this kind of terrorism.

Israel welcomes the Secretary-General's condemnation of this attack and calls upon the international community to denounce these atrocious murders. Furthermore, Israel will exercise its right of self-defence and will take all necessary measures to protect its citizens and to bring to justice the terrorists responsible for this attack, as well as their dispatchers. Finally, I wish to reiterate that Israel will never let terrorism dictate where or how Israelis live, nor alter our commitment to security or our desire for peace.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Meron **Reuben**
Ambassador

