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LETTER DATED 26 NOVEMBER 1980 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Further to my letter of 20 November 1980 (S/14264), I wish to draw your attention to a further example of the campaign of political assassination carried out by the terrorist PLO against Arabs in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District because they are not prepared to abide by PLO orders and favour living in peace with Israel.

On 23 November 1980, Abd al-Wahhab al-Masri, of Jabelieh, near the town of Gaza, was murdered. Later on the same day, the Libyan press agency published a statement in which the PLO took responsibility for this crime, indicating specifically that it was carried out because the victim was prepared to work for peaceful coexistence with Israel.

As I pointed out in my letter of 20 November, the PLO has been working systematically to intimidate and silence Arab leaders of whose political views it disapproves. By engaging in political terror against Palestinian Arabs, the PLO is following in the footsteps of its mentor, the notorious Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin al-Husseini, who had no compunction about terrorizing and assassinating his political rivals.

It adopted this ugly tactic well before the current peace process began. Indeed, since 1966 the PLO has frequently threatened, terrorized and intimidated Arab mayors, heads of local councils, mukhtars (heads of villages) and local leaders in other walks of life, particularly business and journalism, throughout Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District.

All told, PLO terrorism has claimed the lives of over 360 Arabs since 1966. It has wounded and maimed over 1,800 others.

The following is a list of some of the PLO's crimes in this regard since 1967.

1. In the years 1968 and 1969, several members of the family of the mayor of Halhoul, the Milhem family, were murdered.
2. In 1973, an attack was made on the life of Rashad al-Shawwa, the Mayor of Gaza, who is still on the "hit list" of PLO agents operating in the area.
3. In 1976, Joe Nasser, the editor of the Jerusalem paper, al-Fajr, was abducted and his body has never been found.

4. In 1977, the so-called "Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine", one of the constituents of the PLO, swore to assassinate any Palestinian Arabs who accepted invitations to the Peace Conference held in Cairo in December of that year. The PLO made good its threat. On 26 December 1977, its news agency announced that orders had been issued "to liquidate a number of agents", and boasted that it had eliminated Hamdi Kadi, who was in charge of education in Ramallah.

5. On 8 February 1978, Abd al-Jur Janho, a member of the Ramallah Municipality and a prominent businessman, was assassinated. Mr. Janho had rejected the PLO because, in his words, "We must live together. Hatred helps no one."

6. The Imam of Gaza, Sheikh Hashem Khuzander, who led a group which went to Egypt shortly after the signing of the Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty to express support for the peace process, was assassinated on 1 June 1979.

7. On 15 May 1980, al-Hadaf, a bulletin put out by the so-called "Popular Front", another constituent of the PLO, referred to an explosion which had occurred in the car of Muhammad Abu-Zallaf, the editor of the Jerusalem newspaper, al-Quds, and stated that the bomb had been planted because Abu-Zallaf had co-operated with American representatives with regard to the autonomy talks. The bulletin added that the action was a warning to all other Arabs who did not toe the PLO line.

8. As reported in my letter referred to above, earlier this month Mr. Muhammad Abu Warde, the Deputy Mayor of Jabelieh, and Mr. Hassan Muhammad al-Bazzam, a merchant in the Shatti refugee camp, were both assassinated for precisely that reason.

True to form, the PLO openly boasts of responsibility for those murders. Commenting on the killing of Hamdi Kadi in 1977, the PLO observer at the United Nations publicly justified the murder, telling NBC news:

"... the collaborators with the forces of occupation are executed. They are not assassinated. So this man must have been executed because of his collaboration with the forces of occupation."

Asked by the disbelieving NBC interviewer whether he actually condoned what had been done, he replied:

"Those who collaborate with the enemy should be executed, yes."

In the twisted logic of the PLO, this terminology applies to all those Palestinian Arabs who yearn for peace with Israel and are willing to work toward it.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yehuda Z. BLUM
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations