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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 21 July 1981 from the Permanent Representative of  
Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your urgent attention to the shelling on Sunday, 19 July 1981, and Monday, 20 July 1981, of civilian targets in northern Israel by PLO terrorists operating in Lebanon. In the bombardments on 20 July, a woman was killed on Kibbutz Misgav Am and another civilian on the same kibbutz was injured. The woman killed in that barrage was a mother of three children.

It will be recalled that on 7 April 1980, it was in Misgav Am that PLO terrorists seized the nurseries and took hostage the toddlers and infants sleeping in them, together with some nursing mothers; in that outrage, an infant and a civilian were killed, four small children were wounded, an Israel Defence Forces soldier met his death and 11 other soldiers were injured (see my letter of 9 April 1980 (A/35/171)).

The details of the PLO shelling of civilian centres in northern Israel since midday 19 July until the evening of 20 July, are as follows:

On 19 July, Katyusha rockets were fired at the Galilee Panhandle from 1900 to 2000 hours (local time); then, from 2100 to 2300 hours, targets in Western Galilee were shelled intermittently and, as a result, two persons were injured in Nahariya.

On 20 July, the Galilee Panhandle was subjected five times to shelling and Katyusha rocket-fire. These barrages took place in waves from midnight until 0200 hours, at about 0330 hours, from 0400 to 0430 hours, at about 0630 hours (when the casualties at Kibbutz Misgav Am occurred) and at 2000 hours.

\* A/36/150.

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

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

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