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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-sixth year

Letter dated 17 September 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 atrocity perpetrated by the PLO, this time against Christian pilgrims in Jerusalem.

On 12 September 1981, shortly before 1900 hours local time, a group of 47 Italian pilgrims was returning from mass in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. A hand grenade was hurled at the group as its members were walking through the narrow streets in the Christian Quarter of the Walled City near New Gate.

As a result of the ensuing explosion, a 70-year-old Italian pilgrim from Turin was killed and another subsequently died in hospital. Twenty-seven other persons were wounded, among them 3 local residents. Several of those injured are in critical condition.

This atrocity closely follows the dastardly PLO attack of 29 August 1981 against Jewish worshippers at a Vienna synagogue which claimed the lives of 2 persons and caused injuries to 17 others (see my letters of 31 August 1981 to you (A/36/468) and to the President of the Security Council (S/14670)).

PLO brutalities of this kind - aimed at civilians irrespective of nationality or creed - serve as further reminders, if such are still needed, of the true nature and objectives of the terrorist organization in question. It is a group of international criminals bent on the indiscriminate murder of civilians while at the same time masquerading under the guise of a "national liberation movement". This masquerading is of course facilitated by the fact that at the United Nations the terrorist PLO has been granted irregular rights in clear violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of the rules of procedure of the various organs.

\* A/36/150.

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

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

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