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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-seventh year

Letter dated 17 March 1982 from the Permanent Representative of  
Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations of 18 November 1981 (A/36/700-S/14760), I wish to draw your urgent attention to yet another example of the continuous campaign of political intimidation and assassination carried out by PLO terrorists against those Arabs in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District who have indicated their desire to live in peace with Israel.

During the night of Friday, 12 March 1982, a barrage of bullets struck the home of Mr. Fahri Issah Ismail, a member of the Village Association of the village of Bitunia, in the Ramallah area. Mercifully the bullets missed their target and no one was injured. Following their criminal attack, the perpetrators managed to escape.

As is common knowledge, the PLO has on numerous occasions declared its intention to 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. This unceasing PLO campaign has resulted in a long list of slayings, including that of Katim al-Khatib, the son of Yusuf al-Khatib, the head of a village association in the Ramallah area, who himself was wounded in the attack in November 1981 (see my letter to the Secretary-General of 18 November 1981 (A/36/700-S/14760)) and subsequently died of the wounds inflicted upon him; that of Muhammad Abu Warde, the Deputy Mayor of Jabelieh, in the town of Gaza in November 1980; that of Sheik Hashem Khuzander, the Imam of Gaza, in June 1979; and that of Abd al-Nur Janho, a member of the Ramallah municipality, in February 1978 (see my letters of 26 November 1980 (S/14273) and 27 November 1980 (A/35/666)). All of those who died at the hands of the PLO were guilty of only one sin: openly supporting peaceful coexistence with Israel.

\* A/37/50.

The criminal act of 12 March 1982 against a member of a village association came in the wake of an order issued less than one week before by the Jordan Martial Law Administrator threatening the inhabitants of Judea and Samaria with treason charges and death penalties if they favour peace with Israel by participating in village associations. Among other things, the order, according to the Jordan New Agency (PETRA) of 9 March 1982, states the following:

"I give those who were deceived by this scheme one month from today to withdraw from these organizations. Anyone who remains, joins, campaigns for or works for them in any form after this delay will be prosecuted for treason and will be brought before the competent courts which will pass the required sentences. The maximum penalty will be death and the confiscation of all immovable properties."

The pattern of these criminal acts and threats 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.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 34 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

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

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