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LETTER DATED 21 NOVEMBER 1974 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LEBANON  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention the following:

The sovereignty of Lebanon is violated almost daily by Israeli forces, whether by air or land or sea or by a combination of all three means. The Government of Israel is bent on pursuing its campaign of State-organized terrorism against Lebanon by resorting to what it terms as "protective measures", going beyond its often-time condemned policy of reprisals. Both are abhorrent and constitute condemnable wanton acts of aggression.

As a result, many peaceful Lebanese civilians have been killed or wounded, their homes deliberately destroyed by aerial bombings, artillery fire or explosives. Large areas of tobacco fields and olive groves have been scourged; hundreds of cattle, maimed or killed. The entire population of southern Lebanon lives under the constant terror of attack.

These acts of Israeli aggression are too numerous to recall. I would like to refer to only a few of them that have occurred since our last letter to the Security Council on 10 July 1974 (S/11332).

On 18 July, a squad of Israeli forces attacked a border village and rushed into two homes. They evacuated everyone to a distance of 200 metres and detonated the houses. A third house, empty at the time, was also blown up. The two owners of the inhabited houses, Mr. Ali Hassan Dahoud, a 35-year-old farmer, and Mr. Salah Jehal El-Kazem, a 35-year-old shepherd, were abducted by the Israeli soldiers.

Also on 18 July, between the hours of 2110 and 2130, Israeli forces entered Lebanese territory and exploded three homes in the village of Boustane. They also kidnapped two Lebanese civilians from the village.

On 6 August, Israeli forces, supported by artillery, penetrated Lebanese territory in the vicinity of El-Majidiye, caused the death of five civilians and abducted six others.

On 14 August, Israeli forces penetrated Lebanese territory and planted iron pickets and barbed-wire fences in the region of Aitaroun. Five Israeli naval vessels fired on the Lebanese coast at Rashidiye and inflicted many casualties and caused vast material damage.

On 1 September, an Israeli patrol entered the village of Aita El-Chaab and abducted a Lebanese civilian from his home.

On 3 September, an Israeli patrol penetrated Lebanese territory and posted itself on the main route near the village of Staichiye. It proceeded to search passing vehicles, took mail from a civilian automobile and abducted a Lebanese civilian from the village of El Dhaira. The patrol then withdrew under the cover of artillery fire.

On 16 September, Israeli warplanes fire-bombed six villages in southern Lebanon. The Mayor of Hasbaya, Mr. Fuad Abu Saleh, was killed, and two other civilians were wounded. Several homes were destroyed and many farms set afire.

On 25 September, Israeli jet aircraft attacked Lebanese territory with bombs and rockets.

On 28 September, artillery fire from Israeli territory fell in the vicinity of Aita El-Chaab village, causing the death of two Lebanese civilians and the injury of several other persons. Severe damage was done to property and cultivation.

On 4 October, Israeli forces constructed a barbed-wire fence inside Lebanese territory.

On 5 October, Israeli artillery fire fell in the vicinity of Blida, causing the death of three Lebanese and the injury of 12 others. Heavy damage to material property was also inflicted.

On 18 October, Israeli forces constructed a minefield encircled by barbed wire inside Lebanese territory.

On 31 October, and continuing until 1 November, Israel forces entered Lebanese territory in the vicinity of Blida and destroyed six homes in the village with explosives.

From 1 November to 11 November, Lebanese air space was violated 23 times by Israeli planes, and its territory shelled 43 times from Israel. Israeli forces entered Lebanon four times within that period.

On 11 November, 12 Israeli phantom jets bombed several towns in the vicinity of Hasbaya and Al-Hasbani for 17 minutes. Three Lebanese civilians were killed and five others wounded. Two of those who were killed were picking olives from olive trees at the time of their death. Two Palestinians were also killed, and one was injured.

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On 13 November, at 2355, Israeli artillery shelled the town of Nabatiye for 25 minutes with shells of 155-millimetre diameter. Four shells landed in the centre of the town near Government House, leaving craters four feet in depth. Four persons were killed, among them a 6-year-old girl; 20 persons were injured, ranging in age from 3 to 65 years. Several houses were destroyed, a new mosque was heavily damaged, and 10 automobiles were blown to pieces.

Also on 13 November, Israeli forces entered the village of Blida and destroyed the only bakery and the home of Mrs. Zaynab Ali Assem, a widow with seven daughters. Mrs. Assem and her daughters were pulled from their home and held in an olive grove while their house was blown to rubble. The Israeli soldiers then told Mrs. Assem, "Go, sweetheart, go home" (New York Post, 13 November 1974). When Mrs. Assem and her daughters did return, they found their home in utter ruin, their tobacco crop lying under tons of broken concrete. Another home in the village was also destroyed, and the Israeli soldiers claimed that all three buildings had been used to shelter Palestinian "guerrillas".

On 14 November, at 0230, Israeli gunboats landed a patrol near the town of Sarbine and blew up three houses. One person was injured.

The Government of Lebanon strongly protests against the wanton and senseless attacks of Israel. The representative of Israel has brazenly sent letters to the Security Council in an attempt to justify some of these murderous acts. Yet, these deliberate series of crimes, committed by the forces of Israel under direct government instructions, have no justification in law or morality. In fact, they have been condemned several times by the Security Council in the past.

Although the Lebanese Government has not brought the above-mentioned facts to the attention of the Council prior to this time, such action does not mean that Lebanon has either accepted the murderous policy of Israel as a matter of fact or has been unconcerned with its outcome or effect on the population of southern Lebanon.

As His Excellency President Suleiman Franjeh stated in his address to the General Assembly on 14 November (A/PV.2284), "These raids afflict us in our bodies and souls and threaten our security." Public opinion in Lebanon, as well as international public opinion, is indignant over these attacks. However, the Government of Lebanon believes that the Security Council, despite its many resolutions warning Israel, has either been unable or powerless to take effective measures to prevent Israel from continuing its attacks against Lebanon.

The inaction of the Council, which has been entrusted with the sacred duty of preserving peace and security and of defending the Member States of the United Nations, has emboldened the Government of Israel in the pursuance of its condemnable policy.

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The Government of Lebanon, once again, wishes to draw the attention of the Council, and strongly so, to the fact that the Israeli campaign of terror and threats against Lebanon cannot but heighten tension in the Middle East and endanger peace and security in the area.

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

(Signed) Edouard GHORRA  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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