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LETTER DATED 12 MAY 1954 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF
ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to bring to the attention of the Security Council an outrageous act of inhumanity committed by the Jordanian Armed Forces on 9 May 1954, against two Israeli policemen who, after being wounded by rifle fire and dragged into Jordan were murdered in cold blood by elements of the armed forces of Jordan who had penetrated into Israel territory.

On 9 May 1954, at 0600 hours, an Israel border patrol consisting of 14 policemen was attacked while on duty well within Israel territory by Jordanian Armed Forces at Khirbet Illin.

A police lieutenant and a policeman were seriously wounded in the attack.

In the face of superior numbers the patrol withdrew on order from the officer in charge and was compelled to leave the two wounded men behind. Upon the withdrawal of the patrol the Jordanians dragged the injured policemen across the border to a point 80 metres within Jordanian territory.

At 0930 hours, an Israel army unit arriving at the scene of the attack, found that the Jordanian Armed Forces had advanced still deeper into Israel territory and had occupied two ridges. The Israel army unit succeeded in driving the Jordanians back to the demarcation line.

In the course of the fighting one Israeli soldier was killed and two others were wounded. Firing continued until 1830 hours, the Jordanians using three inch mortars. United Nations Observers watched the fighting from the Jordanian side.

Because of the approaching darkness, the Israel authorities agreed to accept the bodies of the two policemen on the following morning. They were returned to Israel on 10 May 1954, at the Mandelbaum Gate in Jerusalem.

The following is a summary of the post-mortem report by Drs. Moshe Gil Goldberg and Albert Behar of the Hebrew University Hadassah Medical School on the two members of the police patrol killed 9 May 1954:

1. Police Officer: Gunshot wounds mainly in body, one bullet went through left eye and came out behind left ear. Signs of powder burns found on the body, denoting shooting from very close range. Other wounds:
 - (a) Sharp instruments: Three wounds were made by sharp instrument found on chest. These wounds were inflicted after death.
 - (b) Blunt instrument: Cranium bears evidence of multiple fractures caused by blunt instrument. Nose and jaw were broken.

Cause of death:

Laceration of brain and multiple gunshot wounds.

2. Policeman: Gunshot wounds found are three wounds in chest and abdomen. Other wounds are:
 - (a) Explosion: presumably of hand grenade.
 - (b) Sharp instrument: Four very deep cuts on chest, one of which cut the heart in two. Lighter cuts found on face and legs.
 - (c) Blunt Instrument: Multiple fractures of cranium made by blunt instrument.
 - (d) Dragging: Signs of dragging on hard ground found on chest, abdomen and back.

Cause of death:

Stabbing of heart.

No evidence was found of wounds inflicted after death.

It is especially urgent that the true facts concerning this Jordanian act of aggression leading to Israel casualties should be made known, in view of the distorted evidence presented by Jordan to the United Nations authorities.

I have the honour to request therefore that this letter be made available to the members of the Security Council, and be circulated among all members of the United Nations.

(Signed) Abba Eban

Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Israel to the United Nations

