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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 18 December 1968 from the Permanent Representative of Jordan  
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter of 15 October 1968 (A/7274, S/8856) concerning repeated Israeli violations of the cease-fire resolution and Armistice Agreement, and upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to Your Excellency's attention that Israeli attacks against Jordan have continued unceasingly.

Many of the sixty-nine Israeli attacks cited in the attached list were carried out by Israeli armed units attempting to cross the River Jordan. In other cases, Israeli troops penetrated deep inside Jordan territory to hit centres of civilian population and destroy means of communication.

On 3 December 1968, in the village of Kufor Asad alone more than thirty elderly men, women and children were killed and many wounded, as a result of the indiscriminate Israeli bombing and shelling. Forty houses were destroyed.

Only three days ago Israeli forces heavily shelled centres of civilians in Ghor Al Safi in direct violation of the Armistice Agreement. As a result one woman was killed and two seriously wounded. A child and two other civilians were also wounded and two houses destroyed.

These premeditated Israeli attacks against Jordan were publicly admitted by the Israeli authorities.

I have the honour to request that this letter, together with the attached list, be circulated as official documents of the General Assembly and Security Council.

(Signed) Muhammad H. EL-FARRA  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

\* Also issued under the symbol S/8935.

(1) On 2 October 1968, Israeli forces opened fire, using medium machine-guns, on Jordanian positions in Wadi Khaled. Fire was returned and exchanged for ten minutes.

(2) On 5 October 1968 at 1025 hours local time, two Israeli armoured vehicles supported by two helicopters and other military aircraft crossed the armistice line and penetrated deep in Jordanian territory in Wadi Araba area. They attacked a bedouin caravan, killing one bedouin, three camels and captured four men.

(3) On 5 October 1968, at 0930 hours local time, Israeli forces opened fire from medium machine-guns on Jordanian positions in Adasiyah area. Fire was returned.

(4) On 8 October, Israeli forces opened fire from medium machine-guns for ten minutes on Jordanian positions in Mandasah area. Fire was returned.

(5) On 12 October 1968, at 1840 hours local time, Israeli forces opened fire from light machine-guns on Jordanian farmers in Shuna Shamaliyah area. Fire was returned. As a result, a child and one farmer were wounded.

(6) On that same day, at 0950 hours local time, Israeli forces opened fire from medium machine-guns and tanks on Jordanian positions in King Hussein Bridge. Fire was returned and exchanged intermittently until 1150.

(7) On 15 October, at 1645 hours local time, Israeli forces opened fire from medium machine-guns, tanks and 81 mm mortars on Jordanian positions in King Hussein Bridge area. Fire was returned and exchanged until 1745.

(8) On 16 October, at 1535 hours local time, Israeli forces opened fire from medium machine-guns and mortars and 106 mm guns on Jordanian positions in Baqurah area in the northern part of the Jordan Valley. Fire was returned and exchanged until 1615.

(9) On that same day, at 2230, Israeli forces shelled the area north of Damya Bridge using heavy artillery. Fire was returned and exchanged for five minutes.

(10) On 17 October at 0030, Israeli forces heavily shelled the areas of Shuna Shamaliyah, Adasiyah, Samma and Houfa. Fire was returned and exchanged until 0140.

As a result of the Israeli shelling, two Jordanians were killed and six were wounded. A number of houses were destroyed in Shuna Shamaliyah and Houfa.

(11) On that same day at 1740, Israeli forces opened fire from medium machine-guns on the King Hussein Bridge area. Fire was returned and exchanged until 1750.

(12) Again on that same day at 1700, four Israeli military aircrafts violated Jordanian air space and flew over the city of Kanak.

(13) On 18 October at 0905, ten Israeli aircraft violated Jordan air space and flew over the cities of Amman, Salt, Irbid, Jerash and Ajloun.

(14) On 22 October at 1730, Israeli forces opened fire from medium machine-guns and shelled the area of King Hussein Bridge. Fire was returned and exchanged until 1920.

(15) On that same day, at 2220, Israeli forces opened fire from medium machine-guns and tanks on King Hussein Bridge. Fire was returned.

(16) On 23 October at 1255 hours local time, Israeli forces opened fire from medium machine-guns and 106 mm guns on the Maghtas area (Baptismal area). Fire was returned and exchanged until 1312.

(17) On 24 October, at 2050 hours local time, Israeli forces opened fire from medium machine-guns and mortars on Jordanian forces in Majamie Bridge. Fire was returned and exchanged intermittently until 2210.

(18) On 25 October at 2000, Israeli forces opened fire using tanks and artillery on the areas of Baqura, Tel El Arbayeen. Fire was returned.

At 2100 hours local time, Israeli forces extended the range of their fire, using field artillery, to Um Sadrah north of Damiya Bridge. Fire was returned and exchanged until 2145.

(19) On 27 October, at 1940, Israeli forces shelled the villages of Barha and Taibih using heavy artillery from posts in the occupied Syrian Heights. Fire was returned.

Soon, the Israeli forces extended their attack and shelled the areas of Shuna Shamaliyah and Tel El Arbayeen. The Israeli forces used land to land rockets in shelling the area of Shuna Shamaliyah.

(20) On 28 October at 0830 hours local time, Israeli forces opened fire from medium machine-guns on Prince Abdullah Bridge. Fire was returned and the exchange lasted for twenty minutes.

(21) On 29 October 1968 at 1150 hours local time, Israeli forces opened fire from medium machine-guns on Jordan forces in Um Shurat Bridge area in the south. Fire was returned and exchanged till 1225.

(22) On 30 October at 1440 hours local time, Israeli forces opened fire on Jordanian positions in the area north of Prince Abdullah Bridge. Fire was returned and exchanged for ten minutes.

(23) On that same day at 1700 hours local time, Israeli forces opened fire from medium machine-guns on Um Shurat area. Fire was returned and exchanged intermittently until 1755.

(24) On 31 October at 0600 hours local time, Israeli forces opened fire from medium machine-guns on Um Shurat area. Fire was returned and the exchange lasted for thirty-five minutes.

(25) On that same day at 0825 hours local time, Israeli forces opened fire from medium machine-guns on the area of Prince Abdullah Bridge. Fire was returned and the exchange lasted for thirty minutes.

(26) On that same day at 0930 hours local time, Israeli forces opened fire from medium machine-guns on Baqura area in the north. Fire was returned and the exchange lasted for fifteen minutes.

(27) On that same day at 1040 hours local time, Israeli forces opened fire from medium machine-guns on Jumiadiyah area. Fire was returned and exchanged for twenty minutes.

(28) On 1 November 1968, ten Israeli military aircraft flew over the Wadi Araba area intermittently between the hours 0045 and 1223, in violation of the Armistice Agreement.

(29) On 1 November at 2150, Israeli forces opened fire using heavy artillery and mortars and shelled the areas of Shuna Shamaliyah Adasiyah, Kufr Asad and Waqas. Some bombs hit the City of Irbid. Fire was returned and exchanged until 2215.

(30) On 4 November at 1500 hours local time, Israeli forces opened fire from medium machine-guns, tanks and artillery on Um Sudra area. Fire was returned and exchanged intermittently until 1555.

(31) On 6 November at 1045 hours local time, two Israeli helicopters flew over the area of Shubak and opened fire from machine-guns.

Again at 1150 the helicopters returned to the same area and landed in the area of Baida-Shubak. At 1205 an Israeli aircraft flew over Beir Mathkour area.

(32) On 8 November at 0530, Israeli forces opened fire on Jordanian forces in Maghtas and Prince Abdullah Bridge area in the south. Fire was returned and exchanged until 0605.

(33) On that same day at 0645, Israeli forces opened fire using machine-guns and tanks on Jordanian forces in Majamie Bridge area. Fire was returned.

At 0724 hours local time, two Israeli jets strafed the area three kilometres south of the Bridge using machine-guns and napalm. Fire was ceased at 0735.

(34) On 11 November at 0815, Israeli forces shelled the area of Wadi Yabis in the north, using heavy mortars. Fire was returned and exchanged until 0853.

(35) On 12 November 1968 at 0755 Israeli forces opened fire from medium machine-guns on Jordanian forces in Suwaymih area. Fire was returned and exchanged until 0815.

(36) On that same day at 1425, Israeli forces opened tank fire on Jordanian forces in the same area. Fire was returned and exchanged for fifteen minutes.

(37) On that same day at 1925, Israeli forces opened fire from medium machine-guns on Jordanian forces in Shaq El Barid in the north. Fire was returned and exchanged for ten minutes.

(38) On 13 November at 0015, Jordanian forces exchanged fire with an Israeli army unit trying to cross the Jordan River to the East Bank in Adasiyah area in the north. Fire was exchanged for thirty-five minutes.

(39) On that same day at 0715 hours local time, Israeli forces opened fire from medium machine-guns on Jordanian forces in the Suwainih area. Fire was returned and exchanged intermittently until 0855. As a result one soldier was killed.

(40) Again on that same day, at 1135 hours local time, Israeli forces opened fire from medium machine-guns, 106 mm guns, tanks and artillery on Swaimih area. Fire was returned and exchanged until 1350.

(41) On 17 November 1968, at 1035 hours local time, Israeli forces opened fire on Wadi Yabis area in the north. Fire was returned and exchanged until 1100.

(42) On that same day, at 1830 hours local time, Israeli forces opened fire on Jomruk and Mashrui' areas. Fire was returned and exchanged intermittently until 1850. As a result one Jordanian was wounded.

(43) On that same day, at 1930 hours local time, an Israeli patrol opened fire on Jordanian positions in Zor Matameet area in the north. Fire was returned and exchanged for fifteen minutes.

(44) On that same day, at 2030 hours local time, Jordanian forces exchanged fire with an Israeli patrol trying to cross the Jordan River to the East Bank in Wadi Yabis area. The exchange lasted until 2105.

(45) On 19 November 1968, at 0335 hours local time, Israeli forces opened fire from medium machine-guns on Adasiyah area. Fire was returned and exchanged for thirteen minutes.

(46) On that same day, at 1220 hours local time, Israeli forces opened fire using medium machine-guns and mortars on the area 10 kilometres south of Sheikh Hussein Bridge. Fire was returned and exchanged until 1640.

(47) On that same day, between 1450 and 1530 hours local time, six Israeli jet fighters flew over areas in the southern parts of the East Bank.

(48) On 20 November 1968, at 1250 hours local time, Israeli forces opened fire on Wadi Yabis area. Fire was returned and exchanged intermittently until 1325.

(49) On 20 November 1968 at 2330, Jordanian forces exchanged fire with an Israeli armed unit trying to cross towards the East Bank of the Jordan, south of Damiya Bridge. Fire exchange lasted for ten minutes when the Israeli unit retreated.

(50) On 21 November at 0930, Israeli forces opened their machine-guns, mortar and tank artillery on the areas of Majami Bridge, Adasiyah Al-Qattaf, and Al-Jumrok in the northern part of the Jordan Valley. Fire was returned.

At 1030, Israeli jets strafed Jumrok area using rockets and machine-guns. Fire was ceased at 1100. Two civilian Jordanians were killed.

(51) On 21 November 1968, at 1955, Israeli forces opened their medium machine-guns and 106 mm artillery on the area south of Damiya Bridge. Fire was returned.

(52) On 22 November, at 0850, Israeli forces opened their medium machine-guns on the Um Al-Shurat area. Fire was returned.

(53) On that same day, at 1010, Israeli forces opened fire on Um-Sudrah north of Damiya Bridge using medium guns and mortar and 106 mm artillery. Fire was returned in self-defense.

(54) On 22 November, at 1420, Israeli forces opened fire on Baqura village. Fire was returned and exchanged for twenty minutes.

(55) On that same day, at 1000, Israeli military aircraft violated Jordan air space and flew over most of the cities in the East Bank of the Jordan.

(56) On 24 November, at 2210, Jordanian forces exchanged fire with an Israeli armed unit attempting to cross towards the East Bank of the Jordan near Shuna Shamaliyah.

(57) On 25 November, at 1555, Israeli forces opened fire on areas south of Sheikh Hussein Bridge using medium machine-guns and 81 mm mortar artillery. Fire was returned in self-defense.

(58) On that same day, at 2145, Jordanian forces exchanged fire with an Israeli armed unit trying to cross the River Jordan in Manshiya area. The Israeli unit retreated.

(59) On 27 November, at 0115, Jordanian forces exchanged fire with an Israeli armed unit trying to cross the River Jordan in Adasiyah area. The Israeli unit was forced to retreat.

(60) On that same day, at 2235, another Israeli armed unit tried to cross the River Jordan in Adasiyah area. Jordanian forces exchanged fire and forced the Israeli unit to retreat.

(61) On 28 November, at 1755, Israeli forces opened fire on Um-Al-Shurat village. Fire was returned in self-defense.

(62) On that same day, at 2030, an Israeli armed unit tried to cross the River Jordan near Manshiyah. Our forces exchanged fire and forced the Israeli unit to retreat.

(63) On 29 November, at 1635, Israeli forces opened fire on Jordanian positions near King Hussein Bridge. Fire was returned and exchanged until 1655.

(64) On 1 December, at 2130, Israeli armed forces embarked on a large-scale attack against Jordan using medium guns, tanks, artillery, and military aircraft. The city of Irbid and villages of Samma, Taibih, Shuna Shamaliyah, Manshiya and Al-Baqura were heavily shelled (see document S/3911).

(65) On that same day and at the same time, Israeli armed units carried in helicopters covered by Israeli jet fighters strafed civilians and their trucks on the highway between Amman and the Port of Aqaba. The Israeli units destroyed two bridges deep inside Jordanian territory (see document S/8911).

(66) On 2 December at 0105 Israeli military aircraft bombed the area of Kufr Yoba. Two soldiers were killed and one seriously injured (see document S/8911).

(67) On 3 December, beginning at 0005, the villages of Kum, Kufr Asad and Sarma were heavily shelled and the village of Kufr Asad bombed by Israeli forces. The city of Irbid was also bombed. Over thirty civilians were killed and many wounded. More than forty houses were destroyed (see document S/8916).

(68) On 4 December, at 1200, waves of Israeli military aircraft bombed areas in the north of the East Bank of the Jordan. The Jordanian valley was heavily bombed (see document S/8918).

(69) On 15 December 1968, at 2300 hours local time, Israeli forces heavily shelled centres of civilians in Chor Al Safi. Shelling was at 2325. One woman was killed and two seriously wounded. A child and two other civilians were wounded. Two houses were destroyed.

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