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Statement by

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Madam coordinator,

Israel is engaged in a devastating war against Hamas, after it perpetrated attacks against Israel which were staggering in their savagery and their contempt for every core principle of humanity.

Four months ago, Hamas terrorists invaded Israel using arsenal smuggled from Iran, North Korea and other State and non-State actors. They used these weapons to massacre, brutalize and torture; to commit sexual and gender-based violence; to take hostages; to fire thousands and thousands of rockets indiscriminately at the Israeli population. These weapons are used to perpetuate violence against their own population, the Palestinian people.

Arms are deliberately and illicitly being diverted to terrorist groups in our region, causing far too much pain and suffering. The international community must be steadfast in calling against the suppliers of arms to Hamas and other terror organizations.

The appalling suffering of civilians in this conflict - both Israeli and Palestinian - is first and foremost the result of Hamas' despicable strategy of systematically and unlawfully embedding its military operations within and beneath densely populated civilian areas, in homes, mosques, United Nations facilities, schools and hospitals. This is a violation of IHL.

Israel wishes no harm to civilians. Unfortunately, Israel is confronted with a brutal terrorist organization that aims to maximize loss of Palestinian life. While Hamas deliberately targets civilians, Israel directs attacks only at military objectives. While Hamas prevents its own citizens from evacuating to safer areas, Israel does everything it can to facilitate their safe passage. Israel facilitates the entrance of unlimited humanitarian aid, Hamas hoards it for its own purposes. While Hamas perversely views their own civilians as expendable, Israel laments the loss of all innocent human life.



It is Israel's inherent right to defend its population, and it will continue to do so, in line with its obligations under international law. Israel will continue to facilitate humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian population, and to continue to employ extensive measures to mitigate harm to civilians.

The International Court of Justice understood this. The Court unanimously and rightly rejected South Africa's vile attempt to undermine Israel's inherent right to defend itself against the genocidal Hamas terrorists.

The Court made no findings on the merits of the case or the charges. The Court did not determine that Israel is "plausibly committing genocide". Such assertions constitute an attempt to harm the integrity of the judicial process and advance a political agenda. The concept of plausibility in the Court's jurisprudence refers to the question of whether the allegations made are, as a matter of principle, plausibly related to the Genocide Convention.

In its decision on provisional measures the ICJ unanimously rejected almost all of South Africa's requests, including the request that Israel suspend its military operations in Gaza, thus clearly indicating its understanding that military operations will continue. The measures which were indicated are limited to existing legal obligations to which Israel is already committed.

Regarding the claims of sexual based violence by Israeli forces - Israel forcefully rejects the despicable and unfounded claims published by a group of so-called UN experts, including one who recently legitimized the massacre of October 7, and another who publicly doubted the testimonies of Israeli victims of gender-based and sexual violence.

These mandate holders have remained silent on the horrific sexual violence and gender-based violence perpetrated by Hamas on and since October 7.

No complaint has been received by Israeli authorities but Israel remains ready to investigate any concrete claims of misconduct by its security forces when presented with credible allegations and evidence.



It is clear that the co-signatories are motivated not by the truth but by their hatred for Israel and its people. The State of Israel will continue to abide by its obligations under international law.

This is a war that Israel did not start and did not want. But it is a war that must end with the dismantling of a terrorist organization that has demonstrated its ability and its will to carry out further October 7ths. And it must end with the release of our hostages.

Madame coordinator,

Repeating the term “genocide” does not create a reality in which Israel is committing such acts. To use the term in this way is to distort it beyond recognition.

Hamas, however, actually does have genocidal intentions against the people of Israel. They have said so explicitly. That they would like to see Israel wiped off the map. That October 7th was a dress rehearsal.

The Palestinian delegation prefers to create an alternate reality instead of dealing with the actual one. There is a reason for presenting such an obscene inversion of reality. For the Palestinian delegation, if the atrocities committed by Hamas exist – then the efforts to demonize Israel would collapse.

In the real world, there is a democratic country exercising its right and duty to defend its citizens under near impossible conditions and from a truly genocidal threat.

If Hamas’s utter inhumanity and contempt for the law are never part of the discussion, then the lawless terrorist organization that seeks to maximize civilian harm gets a free pass.



The Palestinian delegation prefers to deny this took place. They pretend that the gruesome sexual violence never took place. Their narrative begins on the morning of October 8th. They speak about the military campaign in Gaza as if it were borne out of thin air. As if Hamas and other terrorist groups fire at Israel with apples and oranges. As if Hamas hasn't established a military of 30,000 combatants and an extensive weapons arsenal.

The Palestinian delegation speaks as if they support the tight control of the trade in arms. I would laugh if the reality weren't so tragic.

We have yet to hear the Palestinian delegation condemn the atrocities of October 7. The slaughter of families, the sexual violence, mutilation and torture of men, women and children. Burning families alive, burning babies alive, the taking of hostages.

We have yet to hear the Palestinian delegation condemn the cynical use of their brethren as human shields. The stealing of humanitarian aid meant for the Palestinian people – and the violence against those civilians who try to access it.

We have yet to hear the Palestinian delegation ask why Hamas builds terror tunnels instead of building a future for Palestinian children.

Not once has the Palestinian delegation condemned the murder, rape and mutilation of Israelis on Oct 7. They blatantly support Hamas in these halls, defend their actions and hail them as an integral part of their society. They align themselves with those who use schools to fire rockets, hospitals as headquarters, and the Palestinian people as human shields.

If the Palestinian Authority actually had any interest in preventing diversion of arms to terrorists, perhaps the lives of innocent Israeli and Palestinian men, women and children could have been spared. Perhaps if the Palestinian Authority stopped rewarding terrorists who plan and carry out such attacks, the need and use of illicit arms would also reduce.



Only denial and distortions. Zero responsibilities.

I would like to conclude my comments with a quote by the famous Egyptian writer Naguib Mahfouz:

.. إنهم يكذبون

ويعلمون أنهم كذابون

.. ويعلمون أننا نعلم أنهم كذابون

ومع ذلك فهم يكذبون بأعلى صوت

(They lie. They know that they lie. They know that we know that they lie. But still, they lie and they do so out loud).

Thank you