



MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

H.E. António Guterres
Secretary-General of The United Nations
New York, United States of America

Jerusalem, March 11, 2024

Mr. Secretary-General,

Your response to the atrocities committed by Hamas is unacceptable. Your dismissal of the heinous acts as documented in the recent UN report—acts which are still being perpetrated—is not only inadequate but also offensive. The world has been waiting five months for your actions. The necessity to declare Hamas as a terrorist organization, and to impose severe sanctions similar to those placed on Al Qaeda and Daesh is critical and indisputable.

Your reluctance to lead a decisive international stance against these atrocities, instead fixating criticism on Israel—a nation in self-defense after a barbaric massacre—signals a distressing bias. If the victims would not have been of Jewish or Israeli descent, your office would have responded in a much vigorous way.

The indifference displayed towards the report on Hamas' sexual violence—crafted with bravery—is deplorable. To defer substantive discussion to April is to fail the victims grievously. Any moral leader would have taken immediate and radical steps to secure the release of all hostages held by Hamas.

Moreover, UNRWA, under your oversight, has been implicated in the massacre, with thousands of its staff entwined with Hamas' terrorist activities. Despite longstanding warnings, you have neglected to take appropriate actions. Instead demanding the resignation of its leadership, your current attempts to salvage UNRWA, even before the investigative committee's conclusions were submitted, only serve to perpetuate its damaging conduct.

Your office has not ensured that UN sub-bodies provide necessary medical care to the hostages. A significant delay in addressing the report on Hamas' criminal acts was noted, barring one brief mention in a footnote—your call for a Security Council session under Article 99, which ironically included an attack on Israel's response. The urgency of the situation necessitates immediate deliberation, which has been realized through our advocacy and the backing of influential Security Council members such as the USA, the UK, France and Japan which convened the discussion.

Your tenure at the UN is set to be remembered for diminishing the organization's stature to an all-time low, allowing it to become an epicenter of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel incitement.

It is imperative that the UN upholds its mission to maintain global security and peace. I implore you to align your actions with these values and take immediate steps to right these wrongs.

To ensure justice and uphold human rights, you must act for the immediate and unconditional release of all individuals abducted by Hamas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. Katz'.

Israel Katz
Minister of Foreign Affairs