



השט"ו-השו"ט"ו
5 November 2006

Excellency,

I write to inform you of the appalling increase in terror attacks carried out by Palestinian terrorists in the Gaza Strip, and the overall escalation of violence emanating from Gaza.

Yesterday, Sunday, 5 November 2006, Palestinian terrorists in northern Gaza fired some eight rockets at cities in southern Israel. On the previous day, Saturday, 4 November 2006, seven other Qassam rockets were fired into Israel. One of these rockets scored a direct hit on a home, causing its residents to seek treatment for shock and trauma. These are only attacks from the recent weekend. As you know, Palestinian terrorism from Gaza has steadily increased in frequency and intensity over the past year.

Israel has a moral duty to protect its citizens from these terrorists, and it will. Thus, calls recently made by the Palestinian leadership, pointing fingers at Israel, ignore the reality of the situation: Israel is only acting in self-defense. If the attacks from Gaza stop, Israel will not operate there.

Excellency, I need not remind you that Israel, more than one year ago, chose to leave the Gaza Strip. An opportunity was presented to the Palestinian people, one that would allow them to show the international community their serious commitment to peace. This new reality could have opened the doors for economic and social development, and allowed Palestinians to take advantage of the support of international donors.

And yet, as we know today, the opposite occurred. Since the disengagement, 1000 Qassam rockets have been launched at Israel. Weapon smuggling continues at an alarming rate, as Palestinian terrorists turn Gaza into a staging ground for future attacks. Instead of embracing moderation and dialogue, the Palestinian people chose extremism and terror. Their leaders today, the very leaders of the Palestinian Authority, Hamas terrorists, embody an eternal commitment to the destruction of the State of Israel. They blatantly reject the three conditions set forth by the Quartet and adopted by the international community: to recognize Israel, renounce terror, and abide by previous agreements. Is it, then, any wonder that Qassam rocket attacks continue?

Excellency, in numerous letters to you and your colleagues on the Security Council this year, we repeatedly warned about the growing state of disarray in Gaza. Israel's reason for concern intensified following the grave incident on 25 June 2006, with the killing of Israeli soldiers and kidnapping of Corporal Gilad Shalit. Since then, Qassam rocket fire has continued uninterrupted. Israeli cities in the south, particularly the community of Sderot, find themselves prey to constant and indiscriminate rocket fire. Their lives have been so adversely altered, as they grow accustomed to daily terrorist attacks and the psychological fears of the next one.

Israel will continue to fight the terrorists and enforce its right to self-defense, a moral and universally recognized right, so long as they continue to pose a threat to its people. Israel is doing the same as any other country would, if placed in the same impossible situation.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated to the members of the Security Council.

Allow me, Excellency, to renew to you the assurances of the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads 'Daniel Carmon'.

Daniel Carmon
Ambassador
Charge d'Affaires

H.E. Mr. Jorge Voto-Bernales
President of the Security Council
S-3520A, United Nations Headquarters