



August 6, 2025

H.E. Hwang Joonkook
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea
to the United Nations
335 East 45th Street
New York, NY 10017

Re: UNSC Measures to Free Israeli Hostages in Hamas Captivity and End the Conflict

Your Excellency:

By way of introduction, the European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to protecting human rights around the world. The ECLJ also holds Special Consultative Status with the United Nations ECOSOC.

Recognizing the Security Council's mandate under Chapters VI and VII of the United Nations Charter to maintain international peace and security and the measures available to it to fulfill that mandate, we write this letter in support of Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar visit to the Security Council.

As you know, Minister Sa'ar's visit is focused on the condition of Israeli hostages still held by Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) in Gaza. In addition to brutally murdering approximately 1200 innocent Israeli and foreign civilians on October 7, 2023, terrorists from the Gaza Strip took 251 hostages. About fifty of the hostages (dead and alive) are still in Hamas's captivity.

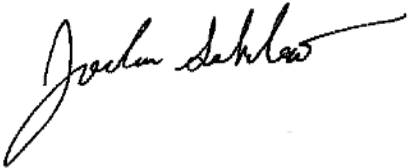
During an emergency session on August 5, 2025, the Security Council heard the powerful testimony of Eli David, the brother of Evyatar David who's video released by Hamas shocked the world due to his emaciated condition. The Security Council also heard statements by Member States with the United States recognizing Hamas as the enemy harming Gaza, as it will not agree to ceasefire terms which could be implemented immediately if it simply released the hostages. Sadly, the remaining Member States used the majority of their time condemning Israel for simply defending itself, although they all did condemn Hamas for taking hostages and called for their release. Even though all members addressed the hostage situation and called for their release, and Israel and Argentina also made eloquent pleas for justice and the release of the hostages, the Security Council has failed to take *any concrete* measures to effectuate the same.

Like the videos of the attack on October 7, Evyatar David and Rom Braslavski's videos released by Hamas purposefully depicting their physical state have showed once again that Hamas continues to provoke not only Israel but the entire world. The message Hamas is conveying is that it will continue to openly torture and kill civilians, as it has gotten away with it. Hamas knows that many in the international community have and will continue to ignore these atrocities and instead condemn Israel, merely for lawfully defending itself. This has been evident since the unprovoked and horrific attack on October 7. From the UN Commission of Inquiry to Special Rapporteurs to the General Assembly to the leaders of individual Member States, all of them are focused on blaming Israel for the unfortunate civilian casualties and lack of food distribution in Gaza. They simply ignore that Hamas initiated the conflict, wanting civilian casualties in Gaza because it uses civilians as human shields by carrying out terrorist attacks from civilian facilities, and it deliberately interferes with food distribution to harm its own people, who it uses as pawns. Yet, the international community is giving Hamas what it wants—condemnation of Israel.

It is not difficult to understand that if Hamas releases the hostages, and its capabilities to target Israel are destroyed, there would be an end to the conflict. Yet, the international community will not do what is necessary—unequivocally condemn Hamas, demand the release of the remaining hostages without any conditions, and take measures to dismantle Hamas and other terrorist organizations operating from Gaza and elsewhere.

The unprovoked torture and murder of Israeli civilians and the civilian population used by Hamas as human shields and pawns in its demented desire for the annihilation of Israel demand that the Security Council take its mandate seriously. These atrocious actions demand that the UN Commission of Inquiry, Special Rapporteurs, the General Assembly, and world leaders work toward getting the remaining hostages unconditionally released immediately. They demand that Hamas, PIJ, and other terrorist organizations are dismantled and their capabilities to attack Israel and use Gaza's civilians as human shields are destroyed. Then and only then will the conflict and suffering end.

Respectfully submitted,



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