



H.E. Mr. António Guterres
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York

5 March 2024

Excellency,

With grave urgency, I call on you today to demand that you convene an urgent Security Council meeting, following yesterday's release of SRSG Patten's mission report on the horrific atrocities perpetrated by Hamas against Israeli women and girls on October 7th.

In Ms. Patten's report, she states that there is "clear and convincing information" that hostages seized during the October 7th terror attacks, and currently being held in Gaza, have been subjected to rape and sexualized torture. She noted that she has reasonable grounds to believe that this sexual violence may be ongoing against the hostages still being held by Hamas and other terror groups in Gaza.

Furthermore, Ms. Patten found that there are reasonable grounds to believe that during Hamas' October 7th massacre, conflict related sexual violence occurred in multiple locations, including rape and gang rape, in at least three locations in southern Israel. They found a pattern of victims – mostly women – found fully or partially naked, and bound and shot across multiple locations.

Patten expressed that the true extent of the sexual violence committed during the October 7th attacks "could take months or years to emerge and may never be fully known," according to her press release.

I recall that, in December 2023, you took the unprecedented step to invoke Article 99 of the UN Charter to convene an urgent Security Council meeting regarding Gaza and the humanitarian situation there. The findings conveyed in the mission report are alarming and constitute a humanitarian emergency. This is an urgent matter of the utmost severity that must receive the full attention of the Security Council. The dire humanitarian situation of Israel's hostages merits equal attention by the world.

I urge you to immediately call upon the Security Council to convene, in light of Hamas' clear and present threat to regional security, and the ongoing dangers our hostages face being held by Hamas in Gaza in violation of all international laws and norms. Hamas must be held accountable and designated as a terror organization, and the Security Council, as well as all UN bodies and resources, must fully commit themselves to ensuring the immediate end of Hamas' sexual crimes and the release of all hostages.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Erdan'.

Ambassador Gilad Erdan
Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations