

**Security Council**

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Identical letters dated 30 December 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Yesterday, the early morning calm in northern Israel was once again shattered by a barrage of rockets fired from Lebanon towards the northern Israeli town of Kiryat Shmona.

The Government of Israel holds the Lebanese government responsible for the escalation of violence in recent weeks. In addition to the wave of rockets, armed fighters have been firing across the Blue Line into northern Israel throughout the month of December. And just last week, a member of the Lebanese Armed Forces shot and killed an Israeli, Shlomi Cohen, while he was driving in a civilian vehicle inside Israel.

Israel cannot be expected to stand by as its citizens become the victims of persistent attacks. The reign of terror is the result of a complete absence in leadership on the part of the Lebanese government, which is harbouring Hezbollah terrorists and undermining regional stability.

In direct violation of international law, Hezbollah has stationed tens of thousands of missiles and rockets in the heart of Southern Lebanon's civilian population. Hezbollah is committing a double war crime; first by using Lebanese civilians as human shields and second by targeting Israeli citizens.

The Secretary-General condemned yesterday's rocket attacks and the Commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Major-General Paolo Serra, affirmed they were a violation of Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#). I urge the Security Council to address the escalation on the part of Lebanon before the situation escalates further. Israel has shown maximum restraint, but will continue to exercise its right to self-defence, as appropriate, and will take all necessary measures to protect its citizens.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ron **Prosor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

