

# ISRAEL

Statement by:

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Briefing by Chairmen of the Subsidiary Bodies  
of the Security Council Countering Terrorism

Security Council

United Nations, New York  
30 May 2006

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Allow me, at the outset, to thank you Mr. President for your leadership of the Council during the month of May, and for convening this important meeting. We also wish to thank the chairmen of the Counter Terrorism Committee, the Al Qaeda Committee, and the 1540 Committee for their concise reports and invaluable contribution in steering the committees.

Mr. President,

Three months ago, in a similar briefing before this Council, I warned that terrorism is sowing the seeds of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Today we must sadly and emphatically state that terrorism is indeed the Third World War. This is World War Three!

No country is immune from international terrorism. It lurks in dark corners and strikes with a blow of destruction, death, indiscrimination, and chaos. Terrorists have executed horrific attacks in Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Morocco, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey. Terror has struck in Jordan, Kenya, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uzbekistan, and Yemen. Terror has devastated Algeria, Argentina, Colombia, Great Britain, the Philippines, Spain, and the United States. It continues to strike brutally, ruthlessly, and daily in Israel. There are many, many more states targeted. And yet, foreigners targeted in terrorist attacks represent an even wider circle of victims. They were Australians. They were Dutch. They were from each and every corner of the globe. They were just unlucky to be at the wrong place at the wrong time. We are all linked. We are all in this together.

As this is a World War, the allies should fight this Axis of Terror, just as 60 years ago the Allies fought the Axis. To paraphrase Winston Churchill, "never before in the field of human conflict" have so few inflicted so much pain, horror, and destruction on so many. And never have so many had the ability to defeat the few if they only mobilized their resources to do so. If we do not stand together, we will fall together. The world is no longer divided between rich and poor and North and South. It is divided between those who join in this fight and those who do not. It is divided between those who spread evil and those who do good; between those who incite violence and those who preach tolerance. Those who stand idly and do not fight this plague are in effect joining in collaboration with it. Unfortunately, even in this Council we find members that, despite being victims of terror themselves, do not always show the courage and determination to condemn it strongly and unequivocally.

I called this Council to arms and sounded a wake up call three months ago, and yet progress is too slow and too little. We must join together and win this war. We must mobilize in a unified, concerted effort.

Mr. President,

There can never be any justification for terror, no matter the motive - PERIOD! We therefore fully support the statement agreed upon in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, which reads, [quote] "we strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security" [end quote]. No matter where it occurs—no

matter the circumstances— nothing can ever justify the willful targeting of civilians. Terror is terror is terror.

Mr. President,

Israel welcomes the invaluable efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate, the Al-Qaeda Committee, and the 1540 Committee in combating international terrorism. We see the work of the committees as part of the international fight against terrorism, and hope their efforts will lead to a significant reduction of international terror. Similarly, a global strategy to counter-terrorism, should it be action-oriented and concrete, could complement these efforts.

Mr. President,

We in Israel unfortunately have an intimate awareness of the need to fight international terrorism. The Axis of Terror represents an unholy alliance of Iran, the greatest state sponsor of terrorism and largest threat to international peace and security, Syria, which hosts the headquarters of terrorist organizations dedicated to wreak havoc in the streets of Israel and murder as many individuals as possible, and the terror organizations themselves.

A dark cloud is looming over the Middle East. Iran, Syria, and the terrorist organizations they finance, harbor, nurture, and support, do not discriminate between their victims, targeting innocents wherever they are and in their trail of terror kill Jews and Christians, Moslems and Druze, Americans and Frenchmen, and whoever happens to be unlucky enough to be in their path. As the Foreign Minister of the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Zahar, recently stated, suicide terrorism represents the realization of the ultimate dream of the Palestinians. It is a sad reality that the Palestinians who went to the polls seeking a better life and an end to corruption, find themselves in the grip of a terrorist organization that is turning their dreams into nightmares.

Unfortunately, there still exist elements that believe that terrorism is a tool to fulfill political aims. To this suggestion, the international community should respond with a resounding NO! This fanatic outlook is anathema to the principles of peace and human dignity and all that the United Nations stands for.

Mr. President,

This Axis of Terror is alive and active. Leaders of Hamas meet regularly with, and have been offered financial assistance by the President of Iran. The very same president who calls for the annihilation of another Member State, denies the Holocaust, and is attempting to develop the nuclear capabilities to perpetrate the next one.

Just 48 hours ago, we have witnessed how volatile the situation is on Israel's northern border, where Iran uses Hizbullah to fight its war by proxy. With Iran and Syria's active support, Hizbullah perpetrated a katyusha rocket terrorist attack deep into northern Israel, which resulted in an extensive exchange of fire along the Lebanese border. We hold not only the

government of Lebanon fully responsible for all terrorist activity initiated from its territory, but also hold responsible the governments of Iran and Syria for harboring and supporting Hizbullah and other terrorist organizations. We expect the international community to enforce UN Security Council Resolutions 425, 1559, and 1680 in full.

As a result of the active collaboration between Iran, Syria, and their terrorist cronies, thousands of innocent people have lost their lives and the lives of many more have been forever changed as a result of wounds sustained from terror attacks. Indeed, more than 24,500 terrorist attacks have been perpetrated against the Israeli people during the current period. The threat of terrorism is real and pressing, and we in Israel face it everyday, in every community, and by every single person. This number is a horrendous statistic in the wave of terror that is sweeping the world while this Third World War is raging.

Mr. President,

We will meet here again in three months time. If all we do then is add hundreds of more names of victims and scores of countries hit, we will have failed miserably. It is our moral duty and urgent responsibility to mobilize today. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to fight this world war, so that when we meet next we declare substantial progress, if not ultimate victory.

Thank you, Mr. President