



Jerusalem, 07.03.2024

Dear colleague,

The UN Special Representative for Sexual Violence in Armed conflict Ms Pramila Patten visited Israel at the beginning of February 2024. The result of her visit is the report on sexual crimes committed by Hamas terrorists in the context of the atrocities of October 7 and the treatment of the abductees held in Gaza.
[Link to the report as published.](#)

Given the findings of the report, which confirms Israel's claims regarding the cases of rape, abuse and other atrocities committed by Hamas terrorists, it is unacceptable that Hamas is still not recognized as a terrorist organization by the UN.

Israel expects states and the UN institutions - the Security Council first and foremost:

- to convene discussions on the report
- to call for immediate release of abductees who are according to the report still expose to sexual violence
- to condemn Hamas clearly and unequivocally and to immediately proclaim it as terror organization
- to call on the UN Secretary-General to act on the issue

The lack of action means that the international community is ready to ignore the acts described in the report, and by that regard sexual crimes as acceptable in armed conflicts.

Silence in view of the findings of the report would prove that even the most basic norms are merely tools in the political game and will mark a significant retreat in the protection of women all over the world.

Therefore, we urge Malta to take necessary actions as a state and also within the UNO as non-permanent member of the Security Council, to support and join the initiative to convene the special Session of the Security Council on Monday.

I thank you very much for your contribution to the protection of women.

Best regards,

Zeev Boker

Zeev Boker
Ambassador of Israel