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**Identical letters dated 18 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

I write this letter in regard to a grave violation by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic of a number of Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1747 (2007) under Chapter VII, and resolution 1860 (2009). This grave violation is part of a trend of serial violations by these two countries, which constitute a threat to regional peace and security, as well as non-compliance with international legal obligations.

On 15 March 2011, the cargo vessel *Victoria*, flying the flag of the Republic of Liberia, was sailing to Egypt via the port of Mersin in Turkey. Based on the ship's documents and the account provided by the crew, the *Victoria* initially departed from the Latakia port in Syria. Among the ship's cargo were three containers, which were concealed among legitimate freight, that were found to be carrying a sizeable amount of arms, military equipment and munitions originating from the Islamic Republic of Iran. The ship's cargo contained approximately 40 tons of weaponry, including C-704 advanced anti-ship missiles, their launchers (with a range of 35 km), radar systems and fire control systems, along with mortar shells and small arms munitions.

This attempt to transfer weaponry from Iran to terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip via Syria constitutes a blatant violation of several Security Council resolutions. Paragraph 5 of resolution 1747 (2007) explicitly prohibits Iran from supplying, selling or transferring, directly or indirectly, any arms or related material. Paragraph 6 of resolution 1860 (2009) calls upon Member States to intensify efforts to "prevent illicit trafficking in arms and ammunition" to the Gaza Strip. Moreover, resolution 1373 (2001) calls upon States to refrain from providing any kind of support to terrorist organizations and to eliminate the supply of weapons to such groups.

This latest incident reflects a growing and intensifying pattern of grave breaches of binding Security Council resolutions and international obligations by State sponsors of terrorism, namely Iran and Syria. Such illegal smuggling of munitions, via the sea and other routes, poses a strategic threat to the stability of the region. In this context, we wish to recall the recent violations by Iran and its associates recorded by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), including incidents involving the transfer of weapons aboard the *Monchegorsk* (January 2009), *Hansa India* (October 2009), the *Francop* (November 2009) and, most recently, the *Finland* and the *Everest* (2010) cargo vessels.



We further note that this most recent incident reflects a continued abuse and exploitation of global maritime commerce by Iran and its collaborators, in violation of accepted shipping practices, as set forth in the relevant International Maritime Organization conventions and guidelines. By doing so, Iran and Syria endanger the safety of ports, vessels and their crews.

The illegal smuggling of arms to terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip poses a direct and imminent threat to the safety and security of the State of Israel and its citizens, who continue to suffer incessant rocket and mortar attacks originating from the Gaza Strip. Arming terrorist entities with advanced weaponry also reflects a growing threat to international civilian infrastructures and vessels.

We call upon the Security Council to take firm action to prevent arms smuggling to terrorist organizations and to prevent the ongoing illicit transfers of arms from Iran. The Government of Israel will provide to the Council additional details regarding the illicit arms found on board the *Victoria*. I have attached to this letter some photos of the cargo captured aboard the *Victoria*.

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

*(Signed)* Meron **Reuben**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations

**Annex to the identical letters dated 18 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**











