

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 10 December 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.  
of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations  
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

In accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, I report to the Security Council on behalf of my Government that the Federal Republic of Germany, in the exercise of the right of collective self-defence, has initiated military measures against the terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). These measures are directed against ISIL, not against the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Security Council has confirmed in its resolution 2249 (2015) of 20 November 2015 that ISIL “constitutes a global and unprecedented threat to international peace and security” and has called upon Member States to eradicate the safe haven that ISIL has established in significant parts of Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic. ISIL has carried out, and continues to carry out, armed attacks against Iraq, France, and other States. These States have acted, and continue to act, by taking measures of self-defence.

ISIL has occupied a certain part of Syrian territory over which the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic does not at this time exercise effective control. States that have been subjected to armed attack by ISIL originating in this part of Syrian territory, are therefore justified under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations to take necessary measures of self-defence, even without the consent of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic. Exercising the right of collective self-defence, Germany will now support the military measures of those States that have been subjected to attacks by ISIL.

I request that you circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Heiko Thoms  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

