



## Security Council

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### **Identical letters dated 27 July 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

I write to you following the consultations in relation to resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) to once again convey that the Middle East is a powder keg on the cusp of being ignited. Tensions along Israel's northern border with Lebanon are higher than they have been in years as a result of Hezbollah's violent escalations, blatant violations of Security Council resolutions and dangerous military advancements. If the Security Council does not condemn Hezbollah's destabilizing activities and demand that Lebanon take action against the illegal military build-up within its territory – or at the very least, allow the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to be able to fully implement its mandate – the situation on the ground will continue to deteriorate and the consequences will be far-reaching and disastrous.

Over the past months, Hezbollah – with Iran's funding and directive – has become more brazen, increasing its actions and presence along Israel's border. Over the past weeks these provocations have reached unprecedented heights.

On 12 July, Hezbollah operatives approached Israel's security fence in an attempt to sabotage it. Hours after they were distanced from the fence, Hezbollah operatives returned and forcibly dismantled Israeli surveillance equipment on the fence. Three days later, on 15 July, a group of 18 infiltrators from Lebanon crossed south of the Blue Line, entering into Israeli territory, in clear violation of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#). This group included a Lebanese Member of Parliament, Qassem Hashem.

Aside from provocative acts aimed at inflaming conflict, there has also been an exponential increase in terrorist activity, including attacks. At the beginning of July, an anti-tank missile was fired towards Israel. Weeks earlier, on 21 May, Hezbollah carried out a wide-scale military drill, which included live fire. On 6 April, 34 rockets were launched at Israeli towns from south Lebanon by Hamas, a designated terror organization.

Several weeks ago, Hezbollah operatives crossed into sovereign Israeli territory and erected two military structures south of the Blue Line. Despite this being a gross violation of Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#), the Council is yet to issue a condemnation. Sadly, inaction in the face of Hezbollah's violations has become a running trend.

Over the past year, dozens of Hezbollah compounds have been constructed along the Blue Line under the guise of the fictitious organization "Green without Borders". As has been proven with overwhelming evidence, these outposts are



manned by Hezbollah terrorists and solely serve military purposes, whether as intelligence-gathering outposts, barracks for combatants or arms caches. This too is in direct violation of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#), yet shockingly no action has been taken to dismantle these compounds. The Security Council has been silent, Lebanon has remained idle and UNIFIL is restricted from entering these terrorist outposts.

All these actions are part of a clear pattern of escalation and intensification. Hezbollah is attempting to initiate friction along the Blue Line through provocations and increasing hostility, all while increasing the terror group's readiness and military capabilities. This dangerous pattern is leading the way towards outright conflict, and the consequences of such a conflict will be disastrous for the entire region.

Israel will not accept any violation of its sovereignty and security and will take all measures necessary to protect its citizens and its territorial integrity. Israel holds the Government of Lebanon responsible for all attacks emanating from its territory and demands that Lebanon fulfil its obligations to prevent all hostile activity.

Moreover, the Government of Lebanon is also responsible for ensuring UNIFIL freedom of movement and its ability to fulfil its mandate. This is especially crucial in light of Hezbollah officials' inflammatory rhetoric against UNIFIL forces and the ongoing attacks against the peacekeepers, including the murder of Private Sean Rooney in December 2022.

I call upon the Security Council to address Hezbollah's blatant and increasingly dangerous violations of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) and to condemn, in the strongest terms, Iran and Hezbollah for destabilizing the region.

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

*(Signed)* Gilad **Erdan**  
Ambassador of Israel to the United Nations

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