



Security Council

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Identical letters dated 19 April 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am writing with the utmost urgency to inform you of a serious incident that took place along the Israel-Lebanon fence line. Late on the night of Friday, 17 April 2020, the Israel Defense Forces detected three locations where the security fence along the Blue Line had been breached by Hizbullah, an internationally designated terrorist organization.

Israel condemns in the strongest terms this provocative attempt by Hizbullah to infringe upon its sovereignty near Israeli communities, in blatant violation of Security Council resolutions, including resolutions [1559 \(2004\)](#) and [1701 \(2006\)](#), and reserves the right to respond accordingly in order to preserve its sovereignty and protect its population, in line with its rights under international law.

Israel holds the Government of Lebanon and the Lebanese armed forces accountable for these actions emanating from Lebanese territory and demands that Lebanon fulfil its responsibility to prevent any hostile activity from its territory. The State of Lebanon must not allow Hizbullah to adversely affect regional security and stability.

I call upon the Security Council to unequivocally condemn this provocative attempt to challenge Israel's sovereignty, and to hold the Government of Lebanon responsible for any action emanating from its territory.

The very fact that Hizbullah continues to act unabated from the areas of operations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), violently obstructing the Force's activity (as shown, inter alia, in the incidents in which UNIFIL units were attacked in Majdal Zun and Bar'ashit), is a disturbing reminder that UNIFIL must be granted the tools necessary to fully and effectively discharge its mandate.

I urge UNIFIL to conduct a comprehensive and transparent investigation of this latest incident and to transmit its conclusions promptly to the Security Council and the Secretary-General.

This latest incident occurred less than a month after another serious event transpired. In a letter sent on 7 April 2020, I reported an incident that took place on 26 March 2020, whereby a tactical remotely piloted aerial vehicle was launched from southern Lebanon into Israel's airspace by Hizbullah, in another serious challenge to Israel's sovereignty.



These incidents are neither random nor isolated, but premeditated and connected. Along with multiple monthly violations, as referenced in Israel's periodic letters to the Security Council, they reflect a troublesome reality: Hizbullah, as the Iranian proxy in Lebanon, is advancing Iran's agenda, including through an ongoing effort to proliferate weapon systems, among them precision-guided missiles, and turning Lebanon into a launching pad for attacks against Israel, a situation that threatens the stability of the entire region. In light of these terror threats, Israel, like any other State Member of the United Nations, has both the right and the obligation to take all measures necessary to protect its territory and its citizens.

At this time of great global calamity, given the need to rally around the common goal of fighting the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, it is even more troublesome to observe the increasing attempts of Iran and its proxies to further destabilize the region. In Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen, countries already affected by conflicts, the Iranian regime chooses to export violence and weapons.

I trust that the content of the present letter will be reflected in the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution [1559 \(2004\)](#) and resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#).

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

(Signed) **Danny Danon**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
