



Security Council

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Letter dated 26 August 2022 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I wish to report, on behalf of my Government, that the United States has undertaken precision strikes against a facility in eastern Syria used by militia groups affiliated with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. This action was in response to armed attacks against the United States and was taken in the exercise of the United States' inherent right of self-defence, as reflected in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. The present letter supplements prior letters provided to the Council, including on 27 February 2021 and 29 June 2021, which further explain the basis for such actions in self-defence.

On 15 August 2022, Iran-backed militia groups attacked United States forces at two locations in Syria. These attacks followed a series of attacks by Iran-backed militia groups on United States forces and facilities in Iraq and Syria throughout 2022 and before, which have threatened the lives of United States and Coalition personnel. The military action of the United States was taken to protect and defend the safety of its personnel, to degrade and disrupt the ongoing series of attacks against the United States and its partners and to deter the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iran-backed militia groups from conducting or supporting further attacks on United States personnel or facilities. In support of these aims, these necessary and proportionate actions were directed at a facility near Dayr az Zawr, Syria, used by groups involved in these ongoing attacks for logistics and ammunition storage.

This military response was taken after non-military options proved inadequate to address the threat, with the aim of de-escalating the situation and preventing further attacks. As the United States has noted in prior letters to the Security Council, States must be able to defend themselves, in accordance with the inherent right of self-defence reflected in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, when, as is the case here, the Government of the State where the threat is located is unwilling or unable to prevent the use of its territory by non-State militia groups responsible for such attacks. This action was conducted together with diplomatic measures.

The United States remains prepared to use necessary and proportionate force in self-defence in response to future threats or attacks.

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

(Signed) Linda **Thomas-Greenfield**
Ambassador

Representative of the United States to the United Nations

