Letter dated 10 October 2022 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I would like to respond to the unsubstantiated claims and unjustified references to my country that have been made at the Security Council meeting held on 4 October 2022 in connection with the item entitled “The situation concerning Iraq” (S/PV.9145), wherein representatives of certain States members of the Security Council, by disregarding the Islamic Republic of Iran’s inherent right to self-defence in response to terrorist attacks that target its people and national security, accused Iran of violating Iraq’s national sovereignty and territorial integrity. In this regard, I would like to draw your attention to the following:

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been a major victim of terrorism for more than four decades. Today, terrorist and separatist groups such as the so-called “Democratic Kurdestan Party”, Reform Komala, Communist Komala, Pejak and Pak, based in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, have continued to use Iraqi territory to conduct armed and terrorist attacks against civilians and Iran’s vital infrastructure. These armed groups, which have been designated as terrorist groups under Iranian law, have set up several terrorist training camps on Iraqi territory in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region in order to recruit, train and incite, plan, organize, support and carry out terrorist acts, as well as sabotage operations, within Iranian territory. From 2016 to the present, they have carried out 49 terrorist attacks inside and near Iran’s borders, resulting in 24 martyrs and 32 injuries. According to reliable information, all of these terrorist attacks were planned, organized, directed and carried out from terrorist bases within the Iraqi Kurdistan Region.

The aforesaid terrorist groups, with the aim of exploiting recent peaceful assemblies in some Iranian cities to further their nefarious terrorist goals, have incited, armed and equipped a number of terrorist affiliates with small arms once entering Iran, causing unrest and damage to private and public property, banks, ambulances and police stations, as well as the martyrdom of several Iranian police officers. In addition, one of the most serious terrorist sabotage plots against Iran’s peaceful nuclear facilities was discovered and foiled. The sabotage was planned by the Komala terrorist group.

Given the ongoing terrorist threats, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran has expressed its strong objections on numerous occasions and through sending several diplomatic notes to the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Iraq regarding the continued existence of terrorist groups and training camps, as well as their free movement and malicious activities inside Iraq’s territory. Furthermore, during the Joint Security Committee meetings between the two countries, relevant officials in the Islamic Republic of Iran shared and provided irrefutable evidence, as well as reliable information, to officials in the Government
of the Republic of Iraq and officials from the Iraqi Kurdistan Region. They were urged to take the necessary measures, in accordance with Iraq’s obligations under international law and the principles of friendly relations and good neighbourliness, as well as the Iraqi Constitution, to control, disarm and refrain from sheltering such terrorist and armed groups, whose continued existing training camps and operations pose a serious threat to Iran’s national security, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Despite our repeated objections and warnings, neither the Government of the Republic of Iraq nor officials from the Iraqi Kurdistan Region have taken effective and concrete measures to comply with their international obligations. Under these conditions and considering the ongoing terrorist attacks, the Islamic Republic of Iran had no choice but to exercise its inherent right to self-defence under international law in order to protect its people, national security, sovereignty and territorial integrity. To this end, the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran conducted several military operations on 28 September 2022 in a necessary and proportionate response to armed and terrorist attacks that targeted Iranian civilians and civilian infrastructure. To ensure that all measures taken were in accordance with international humanitarian law, the operations were carried out with the use of a precise weaponry system. As a result, the operations were meticulously and precisely planned with the sole and precise goal of targeting terrorist affiliates, their locations and training camps where terrorist groups received weapons, training and deployment, with no collateral damage.

The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its unwavering commitment to Iraq’s sovereignty, independence and unity, as well as territorial integrity, and urges the Government of the Republic of Iraq, as a responsible member of the United Nations and in accordance with its international obligations, to exercise and extend its effective control over its entire territory within internationally recognized borders and to refrain from harbouring such terrorist and armed groups that plan and organize their heinous terrorist acts against Iranian civilians and Iran’s national security, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has demonstrated its firm belief in and genuine commitment to Iraqi sovereignty and territorial integrity by positively responding to and supporting the Iraqi Government’s request to assist in the fight against ISIS/Da’esh and its affiliates that threatened Iraq’s national sovereignty and territorial integrity, particularly the existence of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region. In this regard, it is worth noting Martyr General Ghasem Soleimani’s prominent and exceptional role in defeating ISIS/Da’esh, wherein he significantly contributed and provided assistance to the Iraqi people and Government, particularly the officials of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, and was rightfully named the Hero of the Fight against Terrorism and the General of Peace. His cowardly assassination benefited Da’esh and other terrorist organizations designated by the Security Council, which hailed his assassination as “an act of divine intervention that benefited” them.

While the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, it also reserves its legitimate as well as inherent right, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, to respond to any terrorist threat or attack that threatens its people, national security, sovereignty or territorial integrity at any time that it deems appropriate and necessary.

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

(Signed) Amir Saeid Iravani
Ambassador
Permanent Representative