



Security Council

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Identical letters dated 8 October 2023 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 to you with great urgency in light of a very concerning development that occurred along the Blue Line, while Israel is under an extensive terrorist attack on its civilian population by the internationally designated terror organization Hamas.

As you are aware, since the early hours of 7 October, Israel has been under a murderous attack instigated by the terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip, headed by Hamas. In the midst of the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah, Hamas's militants infiltrated Israeli towns and villages, pillaged through the streets, while murdering and kidnapping hundreds of innocent men, women and children and firing massive rocket barrages – numbering in the thousands – from the Gaza Strip into Israel.

Subsequently, on 8 October, Hezbollah, an internationally recognized terrorist organization directed, armed and financed by the Ayatollah regime in Iran, fired 45 mortar shells from within Lebanon, at least 41 of them landing in Israel.

Before this attack by Hezbollah, on 7 October, Israel warned the State of Lebanon regarding the consequences of any intervention from Lebanon and made clear that the opening of yet another front against Israel from Lebanon will be responded to with the necessary military measures, aiming at protecting its sovereignty and defending its citizens. Israel views this attack by Hezbollah as a grave violation of Israel's sovereignty. Furthermore, and as Israel has already warned in the past, Hezbollah's continued military build-up, presence and malign activities in Southern Lebanon including within the area of operations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and particularly along the Blue Line during such times of tension, have the potential to fuel and spread the flames of conflict, leading to dramatic consequences in our region. Israel regards these activities as grave violations of the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) and [1559 \(2004\)](#).

I wish to reiterate that Israel holds the Government of Lebanon responsible for any attack emanating from its territory. Israel therefore expects the Lebanese Armed Forces to fulfil their responsibility and obligations according to Security Council resolutions and prevent any such attack. Israel retains its right to take any further necessary steps to address these threats, protect its sovereignty and defend its citizens.

At the same time, Israel expects UNIFIL to fulfil its mandate in an effective and efficient manner. UNIFIL has a duty to act decisively to prevent the recurrence of these violations and to actively ensure that its area of operations is not utilized for hostile activities and attacks against Israel.



I call on the Security Council members to condemn in the strongest terms the recent attack by Hezbollah and the ongoing attempts by Iran and Hezbollah to destabilize the region, and to urgently address Hezbollah's blatant and increasingly dangerous violations of Security Council resolutions [1701 \(2006\)](#) and [1559 \(2004\)](#). I further call on the Security Council members to underline Israel's right to act and protect its borders and citizens against violent threats and attacks.

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

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