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**The situation in the Middle East**

Security Council  
Seventy-fifth year

## **Identical letters dated 21 April 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

Upon instructions from my government I would like to convey the following.

In a letter addressed to the President of the Security Council dated 7 April 2020, the Israeli Permanent Representative alleged that Hezbollah launched a “remotely piloted aerial vehicle” from Southern Lebanon into “Israel’s airspace” on 26 March 2020. In this regard, my Government would like to respond to this allegation as follows:

Israel is continuing its policy of inventing events and levelling unsubstantiated accusations against Lebanon to cover its well-documented practices of violating the sovereignty of Lebanon and threatening its people, security and stability, in addition to its continuing occupation of Lebanese and Arab territories.

Regarding the allegation that Hezbollah launched a “remotely piloted aerial vehicle” from southern Lebanon into “Israel’s airspace” on 26 March 2020, the Lebanese Armed Forces did not find any proof supporting this allegation, nor did the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) make any reference to such an event taking place. Therefore, this Israeli allegation is baseless and aims to mislead Security Council members and to cover up their daily violations of Lebanon’s sovereignty and Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#).

On the other hand, the number of well-documented Israeli violations of Lebanese sovereignty during the months of February and March 2020 and up until 13 April 2020 totalled 140 maritime violations, 142 ground violations and 162 air violations. Lebanon continues to share, on a monthly basis, the list of Israeli violations with the Security Council and the Secretary-General. These violations took place at a time when the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic was spreading, ignoring the call of the Secretary-General for a total ceasefire around the world and for the world to focus on the real battle of fighting the virus. It is both sad and strange, during this global tragedy that humanity is facing, that Israel refuses to abide by such calls or by the rules of international law.

The latest such grave Israeli violations culminated in the breach and use of Lebanese airspace by war planes and armed unmanned aerial vehicles to launch



missiles at a third country. Such violations took place recently on 31 March and 15 April 2020. In response to these violations, Lebanon sent complaint letters against Israel to the President of the Security Council and the Secretary-General on 3 April and 16 April 2020.

In his aforementioned letter, the Israeli Permanent Representative stated that Israel is not interested in escalation. This statement needs to be translated effectively through ceasing violations and breaches of Lebanese sovereignty by air, land and sea and respecting resolution 1701 (2006).

In the same letter, the Israeli Permanent Representative indicated that the Lebanese authorities are “impinging on the freedom of movement of UNIFIL”. I would like to refer to the recent report of the Secretary-General on implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) during the period from 1 November 2019 to 18 February 2020 (S/2020/195), issued on 10 March 2020, in which it is noted that the freedom of movement of UNIFIL “was generally respected”. Moreover, UNIFIL forces carry out more than 13,000 individual operational activities and about 2,200 joint operational activities together with the Lebanese army on a monthly basis. The percentage of UNIFIL patrols during which incidents occur amounts to 0.03 per cent of the total number of patrols; none of those patrols during which incidents occur had been coordinated with the Lebanese Armed Forces. Lebanon stresses its commitment to ensuring the safety of all UNIFIL forces and ensuring their freedom of movement in accordance with resolutions 1701 (2006) and 2485 (2019).

Based on the above, we request the Security Council to uphold its responsibility in taking the necessary measures, in accordance with its mandate, to stop Israel's repeated threats and violations of Lebanese sovereignty and to compel it to implement all its obligations in accordance with resolution 1701 (2006).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Amal **Mudallali**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative