



# Security Council

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## Letter dated 21 October 2022 from the representatives of France, Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

We are deeply concerned by the transfer of unmanned aerial vehicles from Iran to Russia in violation of Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#). These vehicles are being used by Russia in its war of aggression against Ukraine in attacks against civilian infrastructure and cities across Ukraine, leading to the death of innocent civilians. We recall that indiscriminate attacks on innocent civilian populations constitute a war crime.

Paragraph 7 (b) of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), which was adopted by consensus in 2015, states clearly that all States shall comply with paragraph 4 of annex B. This is binding language.

Paragraph 4 of annex B states that the transfer from or to Iran of items that fall under the list set out in [S/2015/546](#) requires prior approval from the Security Council.

There is significant open-source evidence, including photographs and video evidence, of Russia deploying Mohajer- and Shahed-series unmanned aerial vehicles in Ukraine. Both Mohajer and Shahed unmanned aerial vehicles meet the parameters under [S/2015/546](#) because we assess that they are capable of a range equal to or greater than 300 km. Both models have been manufactured after resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) entered into force and transferred to Russia recently. The transfer of such capacities from Iran to Russia has not been permitted in advance by the Security Council. Therefore both Iran and Russia, by participating in the transfer of these weapons without seeking prior permission of the Security Council, have violated resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).

We also note that Mohajer-series unmanned aerial vehicles are manufactured by Qods Aeronautics Industries, which is subject to the asset-freeze provision of paragraph 6 of annex B to resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#). All States are required to freeze the funds or financial assets of designated entities. Any financial transaction with this entity would represent yet another violation of the resolution.

The European Union and the United Kingdom yesterday adopted new sanctions against Iranian individuals and entities involved in the transfer and production of drones used by Russian armed forces in Ukraine.

Further open-source reporting suggests that Iran intends to transfer yet more unmanned aerial vehicles and, potentially, ballistic missiles to Russia. Any such transfers of items that meet the parameters under [S/2015/546](#), without permission



from the Security Council, would constitute further violations of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) and represent a significant escalation.

We would welcome an investigation by the United Nations Secretariat team responsible for monitoring the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) and stand ready to support the work of the Secretariat in conducting its technical and impartial investigation.

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

*(Signed)* Nicolas **de Rivière**  
Permanent Representative of  
France

*(Signed)* Antje **Leendertse**  
Permanent Representative of  
Germany

*(Signed)* James **Kariuki**  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.  
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain  
and Northern Ireland

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