



Security Council

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Letter dated 26 December 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am writing to you with respect to the letter dated 3 December 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2018/1081](#)) and have the honour to bring to your kind attention the following observations:

Within its desperate disinformation campaign, the United States has brought to the attention of the Security Council an issue that falls entirely outside of the Council's purview. Therefore, by totally disregarding the Charter-based mandate of the Security Council, it has clearly abused both this body as well as an established mechanism of the United Nations. It is not the first time that the United States Government has resorted to such erroneous conduct and, most likely, it will not be the last time.

The letter and its annex are aimed at diverting attention away from the ongoing realities regarding the destructive activities of the United States Administration against the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Such activities include the recruitment and training of spies dispatched inside of Iran in order to disrupt national security and conduct operations of sabotage as well as other adversarial activities.

The United States Government has a history of manufacturing pseudo-human rights activists and glorifying renowned terrorists, self-confessed saboteurs and ruthless spies. Occasionally, the United States appears as their attorney as well. With that in mind, the letter in question further extends such foul objectives.

Principally, dual nationality cannot be invoked as a pretext to prevent or interfere in prosecuting and punishing criminal conduct. The peculiar notion that the letter of the United States tries to imply, based on which dual nationality entails impunity, not only jeopardizes the rule of law but also bears dangerous repercussions for the judicial systems of the countries around the world. At the same time, additional nationality is not recognized under Iranian law and, accordingly, Iranians with dual nationality are recognized and treated as Iranian citizens.

Espionage is a serious crime in all countries, including the Islamic Republic of Iran. Most of the individuals mentioned in the United States letter are convicted spies who are serving their prison terms following due process of law and fair trials. Suffice to mention that the information handed over by one of the convicts resulted in the assassination of five Iranian nuclear scientists by United States-backed terrorists and



endangered the lives of many more, including their family members. Such a heinous crime is punishable by the death penalty in many countries, including in the United States.

As has been repeatedly clarified, including to the officials of the United States Government, there is no ground to link Iran with the disappearance of the former agent of the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Robert Levinson, which is claimed to have occurred in Iranian territory (Kish Island). Although United States authorities never provided the necessary information on the exact timing and the purpose of his claimed visit to Iran, the utmost assistance has been rendered by the Iranian authorities on humanitarian grounds in order to find him. Meanwhile, it should be recalled that in the year 2011, the United States Secretary of State officially acknowledged that Levinson, according to the information of the United States intelligence services, was located somewhere in South Asia (and not Iran).

The United States Government, in violation of its obligations under international instruments and bilateral agreements, interferes in the internal affairs of Iran. These actions have been taken in the form of abusing social networks to stir chaos and disorder as well as imposing illegal and inhumane sanctions, in flagrant defiance of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, that target ordinary Iranians, thus preventing them from enjoying their economic and social rights. Therefore, it sounds utterly ludicrous that the United States finds the audacity to accuse Iran of weakening the Charter of the United Nations while at the same time it engages with its closest allies in order to commit the grave violation of international humanitarian and human rights laws on a daily basis.

Over the course of several years, the United States Government, in violation of its obligations under international instruments and bilateral agreements, has illegally imprisoned several Iranian citizens. Furthermore, a number of Iranians are illegally imprisoned in other countries on the extradition request of the United States. Among those detained was an innocent pregnant woman who was forced to give birth in prison. There are also ailing old men among the detainees. Some of these individuals who are suffering inhumane prison conditions are deprived of their rights to have consular access. They are even denied the right of being visited by their family members following the xenophobic order of the United States President that bars them from travelling to the United States.

It becomes all the more tragic in view of the fact that their detention by the United States is essentially based on the allegation of violating the United States unilateral and illegal sanctions, which are also in violation of Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) and the provisional measures ordered unanimously by the International Court of Justice on 3 October 2018 ([S/2018/899](#), annex). The individuals have even been detained and sentenced to prison terms by the United States solely for the importation of medicine and medical equipment or civilian aircraft components. It is worth mentioning that the International Court of Justice specifically ordered the United States to remove all impediments to the flow of such goods arising from its unilateral illegal sanctions.

The dark human rights record of the United States both inside and outside of its territory deprives it of claiming any high ground on the issue of human rights. The repulsive behavioural pattern of the United States Administration that is based on hypocrisy, double standards and the politicization of human rights to achieve its foreign policy objectives is reaching an alarming level. The opportunistic and misleading behaviour of the United States Government has to be stopped.

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

(Signed) **Eshagh Al Habib**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
