



Security Council

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Identical letters dated 27 August 2019 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 with the utmost urgency. During the late hours of Saturday night (GMT+3), 24 August, the Israel Defense Forces acted in Syria in response to an imminent, large-scale terror attack by multiple killer drones targeting northern Israel. This operation utilized intelligence gathered on the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Quds Force terror activities, spearheaded by Qasem Soleimani. The Israel Defense Forces neutralized the threat of launching the armed drones from the Quds Force and Shiite militia site in Aqrabeh, south-west of Damascus. The counter-terrorism operation on the site was successful in preventing the attack.

The Israel Defense Forces revealed that the Iranian Quds Force operatives had arrived in Syria via Damascus International Airport equipped with drones and explosives. From there, they continued to the Iranian base in south-west Syria to prepare the attack.

The ongoing Iranian entrenchment and terror efforts, which include armed attacks against the State of Israel, in Syria, especially in the south-west, are well documented. I have elaborated in many letters and speeches on the need to end this destabilizing behaviour. This attempted attack is neither the first nor the second major Iranian attack intended to escalate the security situation in the region, guided by Soleimani and the Quds Force (please see [S/2018/111](#), [S/2018/443](#), [S/2019/292](#), [S/RES/2231](#) and [S/2019/234](#)).

Owing to the gravity of the situation, it is essential to make the following three points abundantly clear –

- First, Israel has the full right and obligation to protect its citizens and its national security interests.
- Second, the ongoing Iranian military entrenchment and malign activities in the region, including its direction of Hezbollah, pose a significant threat to international peace and security. It is imperative that the Security Council acknowledge Iran's responsibility for this terror attempt and previous attacks and hold it accountable.
- Third, the Syrian regime knowingly allows its territory to be used by Iran and its proxies for terrorist activities, including armed attacks. It is imperative that the Security Council acknowledges Syria's responsibility in this regard and hold it accountable.



In Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen the Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz and the Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb, stretching across Africa, Asia and the Americas, the Iranian regime is acting with impunity and with the same systematic modus operandi to destabilize the region and beyond.

Iran continues to use Syria to plan and carry out terror attacks against Israel. Israel demands the total withdrawal of Iran and Iranian command forces, as well as their heavy weaponry systems from Syria and the full cessation of its support to terrorist organizations in Syria, Lebanon and around our region.

Iran continues to pose a threat to the security of the international community and specifically to our region by its continuing violations of numerous Security Council resolutions, including [2231 \(2015\)](#), [2216 \(2015\)](#), [1701 \(2006\)](#), [1559 \(2004\)](#) and [1540 \(2004\)](#). The international community has to make it clear to Iran, in the clearest terms possible, that it will not tolerate its regional malign activities, including its central role in supporting terrorism.

We call on the Security Council to unequivocally condemn this terror attempt and the destabilizing Iranian behaviour, which is placing the region on the brink of calamity, and act to stop it.

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

(Signed) **Danny Danon**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
