



Security Council

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Identical letters dated 7 April 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to inform you of a grave incident that took place on 26 March 2020. Hizbullah, an internationally designated terrorist organization, launched a tactical remotely-piloted aerial vehicle from southern Lebanon into Israel's airspace. The Israeli Defense Forces shot down the aerial vehicle.

This latest malicious activity is not an isolated incident, but a part of repeated and ongoing efforts to challenge Israel's sovereignty, violate Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) and create instability in the region. Moreover, it demonstrates that Hizbullah operates fully and freely in Lebanon, and particularly in southern Lebanon, in clear violation of the resolution.

It is unfortunate that, even in these days, while the world is facing the unprecedented coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which has also severely affected Lebanon and worsened its ongoing financial crisis, Hizbullah places its own terrorist interests above the interests of its country. In fact, it seems that the latest violation by Hizbullah, an Iranian-backed proxy in Lebanon, serves to deflect criticism levied against it for its ongoing negative presence and influence in Lebanon.

Israel is not interested in escalation, but it maintains its right to respond, in accordance with its rights under international law, to any action by Hizbullah, in order to protect the safety of its citizens and its sovereignty. Israel will not tolerate any such acts and violations.

I reiterate that it is Lebanon's responsibility to abide by Security Council resolutions [1559 \(2004\)](#) and [1701 \(2006\)](#), calling for the dismantling of Hizbullah and the removal of its presence in Lebanon, and for the Lebanese Government's assertion of its effective sovereignty over all Lebanese territory. Had the resolutions been implemented properly, Hizbullah would not be able to operate militarily against Israel, and certainly not fly its remotely-piloted aerial vehicle into Israel's territory unencumbered.

I also reiterate the need for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to have freedom of movement in its area of operations, and for the Lebanese authorities and other organizations to cease impinging on the freedom of movement of UNIFIL so that it may carry out its mandate.

I call for the Security Council to remain seized of these grave issues in its deliberations, and urge that this violation, as well as Hizbullah's ongoing malicious



activities, be reflected in the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolutions [1559 \(2004\)](#) and [1701 \(2006\)](#).

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
