



Security Council

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Identical letters dated 8 May 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 recent alarming activities carried out by the Iranian regime in complete disregard of international law and Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#). In addition to its continued covert development of a nuclear weapons programme, the Iranian regime has repeatedly violated its obligations by means of repeated ballistic missile tests and the illicit export of advanced weapons.

In the first half of 2020, the Iranian regime conducted two public space launch attempts. On 9 February 2020, the regime attempted but failed to launch an observation satellite on board of a Simorgh space launch vehicle, and on 22 April 2020, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps claimed that it had successfully launched an observation satellite on board of a Qassed space launch vehicle.

These aforementioned launches are in clear violation of article 3 of annex B to Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), which states that: “Iran is called upon not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology.” Both the Simorgh and Qassed space launch vehicles incorporate technologies that are virtually identical to those of ballistic missiles capable of carrying nuclear weapons.

Moreover, the recent space launch by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, which they claimed as successful, is a disturbing development in and of itself. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps is an Iranian military organization, designated as a terrorist organization by the United States, which advances a violent terrorist agenda in the Middle East through its Quds Force. The involvement of this terrorist organization in Iran’s space programme exposes the true objective behind it, despite the regime’s claims of its “peaceful” nature.

In another blatant violation, the Iranian regime continues to transfer advanced weaponry illicitly throughout the region. In November 2019, imagery surfaced of four Iranian “Dehlaviyeh” anti-tank guided missile systems being employed by militias associated with General Haftar’s forces in Libya. The presence of this advanced Iranian-manufactured system on Libyan soil is another grave violation of Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), as set forth in article 6 (b) of annex B, which prevents “the supply, sale, or transfer of arms or related materiel from Iran ...”.

Furthermore, the transfer of arms to Libya stands in direct violation of the arms embargo established by Security Council resolution [1970 \(2011\)](#), as well as subsequent Security Council resolutions renewing that embargo, including resolution



[2473 \(2019\)](#). The Iranian regime's transfer of advanced arms to Libya is additional proof of the Iranian regime's ambitions for regional influence, as well as its utter disregard of the international calls for the cessation of hostilities and non-interference.

As the world unites against the common threat of COVID-19, it is unfortunate to note the Iranian regime's relentless pursuit of regional military interests. As a country devastated by the COVID-19 outbreak, it is perplexing to witness resources being diverted from national emergency relief efforts to advance grandiose provocative endeavours, such as the space launch on 22 April. Instead of addressing the devastating effects of the pandemic on its own population, Iran has engaged in a massive campaign aimed at lifting sanctions imposed on it for its malign activities. While the Iranian population suffering from COVID-19 deserves much needed medical assistance, lifting sanctions would be a major mistake. I would also note that this Iranian campaign against sanctions is disingenuous, as they include humanitarian exception provisions.

I call on the Security Council to condemn the Iranian regime for its recurring violations of international law and Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#). It is imperative that the violations described in the present letter, as well as in previous ones, be reflected in the report on the implementation of Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), and for the Security Council to remain seized of this issue in its deliberations.

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

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