



## Security Council

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### **Letter dated 14 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I am writing to you with reference to the letters contained in documents [S/2020/626](#), [S/2020/628](#), [S/2020/640](#) and [S/2020/650](#), in which the representatives of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Yemen, respectively, in an orchestrated move following the recent visit to the region by the United States Special Representative for Iran, have levelled baseless claims against Iran and aligned themselves with the United States' violation of its international obligations with respect to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) of the Security Council.

During the negotiations on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, these countries did their best to derail the process and, following its conclusion, have done everything in their power to create obstacles in its implementation. Despite the Plan's unanimous endorsement by the Security Council through its resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), in which all Members States are called upon to take such actions as may be appropriate to support the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, including by refraining from actions that undermine implementation of commitments thereunder, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, along with the United States and the Israeli regime, have missed no opportunities, including through disseminating disinformation and providing the Secretariat of the United Nations with fake and forged documents, to seriously weaken the effective implementation of the Plan as well as that resolution. They still systematically pursue such policies and practices in gross violation of their explicit legal obligations under the Charter of the United Nations as well as resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).

It is quite evident that after almost six years of aggression, death and destruction in Yemen, in which thousands of civilians, including women and children, have been killed, and homes, mosques, hospitals, schools, market places, diplomatic missions and even wedding and funeral ceremonies have been targeted, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are desperately attempting, through fabrication and disinformation, to distract attention away from all of the crimes they have committed and continue to commit in Yemen in flagrant violation of the basic principles of morality and humanity and rules of international law, particularly international humanitarian law, which entail their international responsibility. Although, for clear non-professional reasons, the name of the Saudi-led coalition has been dropped from the list of global child-killers, this cannot change the realities about the brutalities of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in Yemen, as a result of which to date 3,955 innocent Yemeni children have been killed.



Likewise, it is clear that no amount of smear campaign can cover up the use, by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, of starvation as a war tactic in Yemen that has caused the world's worst humanitarian crisis in contemporary history. It is also the case with respect to the inhumane acts of these countries, amid the extremely serious health situation as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in Yemen, in preventing the entry of fuel, food, medicine and medical equipment to the most populated areas in that country, which might result in further deterioration of the already critical humanitarian situation.

Of course, aggression against Yemen is not the only instance of meddling of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in the affairs of regional countries. Their interference in the domestic affairs of other countries extends well beyond this region, the living example of which is their well-documented transfer of arms and ammunitions to regional conflicts from Syria to Libya, in clear violation of Security Council resolutions, including resolution [1970 \(2011\)](#). It is also no secret that, to continue such subversive and destabilizing activities and expand their spheres of influence in a large area like the Middle East and North Africa, these countries have also established their own permanent military bases abroad in at least two locations adjacent to the Red Sea.

At the same time, the alignment of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates with the unfounded claims of the United States about the impacts of termination of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) provisions regarding arms transfer is another attempt to cover up the skyrocketing trend of their military expenditure, as well as their unquenchable appetite for importing arms. However, relevant figures in this regard are quite telling and irrefutable. For example, Saudi Arabia was the third largest military spender worldwide in 2018 and fifth in 2019. In 2015–2019, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates were the destination of 45 per cent of imported arms to the Middle East. In the past five years, by importing over 12 per cent of all arms exported globally, Saudi Arabia by far has been the largest arms importer in the world. Likewise, another element that must not be overlooked in considering the threats posed by Saudi Arabia to regional and international peace and security is its long-standing role in supporting international terrorism.

In the light of the above, it is crystal clear that the hysterical accumulation of armaments by these countries is responsible for regional instability, and the termination of arms transfer procedures in resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) would have no destabilizing effects. In fact, in addition to excessive import of sophisticated weaponry by certain countries in the region, as well as their expansionist policies, the real source of regional insecurity and instability is the massive build-up of foreign forces, a large number of which, as well as a number of foreign military installations, are hosted by Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. In this context, it must also be stressed that the establishment of a significant number of foreign military bases in the Middle East has turned this region into the highest concentration of foreign military installations in the world. Moreover, the current alarming trend of coalition-building of foreign naval forces in the Persian Gulf, including with the participation of certain regional countries, would indeed add a new source of insecurity and instability to the already fragile situation in this volatile region.

These facts indicate that the above-mentioned letters are detached from the actual realities in the region and are merely intended to appease the United States, which is attempting desperately to bring the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) to an end.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates cannot conceal their brutalities in Yemen or distract attention away from their power projection and expansionist policies in the region. Instead, they are advised to choose the path of cooperation in

place of confrontation. This may start with putting an end to the aggression against Yemen and removing its inhumane blockade, thus providing the ground for intra-Yemeni dialogue to overcome internal differences and to start reconstruction of this war-torn country. In its turn, the Islamic Republic of Iran – based on its long-standing belief that the crisis in Yemen has no military solution and must be settled through peaceful means – stands ready to continue providing diplomatic assistance to facilitate launching a Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned, United Nations-facilitated political process.

In conclusion, I must underline that establishing friendly relations and peaceful coexistence with neighbouring countries has always been Iran's top priority, resulting in building brotherly relations with most of our neighbours. We will continue to pursue our security, stability and prosperity within the framework of a strong region. We are convinced that the establishment of a strong and stable region cannot be materialized with the massive arms imports or relying on foreign forces to ensure our security but it can only be realized with the genuine dialogue and active and constructive engagement of all regional countries based on mutual respect, inclusivity and basic principles of international law. The Hormuz Peace Endeavour (known as HOPE), launched by the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly (see [A/74/581-S/2019/933](#)), is designed to serve this purpose. This initiative, which has received positive reactions from a number of regional countries so far, can create a proper venue for all States of the Persian Gulf region to work together towards establishing a safer and more stable and prosperous region.

Through guaranteeing the security of the Strait of Hormuz, as well as deploying the naval counterpiracy mission in the Indian Ocean and the adjacent areas, which has been acknowledged and commended by the Security Council in its resolutions, the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has played an incontestable role in ensuring energy security, commercial navigation and security and stability in the broader Persian Gulf region, will continue to further contribute to the realization of such noble objectives.

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

*(Signed)* **Majid Takht Ravanchi**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative