



Security Council

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Identical letters dated 25 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and with reference to the identical letters dated 23 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council ([S/2020/1284](#)) regarding the claim made by Qatar that four Bahraini fighter aircraft had violated Qatari airspace on Wednesday, 9 December 2020, I would like to reaffirm that the claim made by Qatar is totally inaccurate, completely untrue and regrettable.

On 24 December 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain issued a statement in which it clarifies that on Wednesday, 9 December 2020, two Royal Bahraini Air Force F-16 aircraft and two United States Air Force aircraft of the same type were carrying out a joint training flight in the area designated for such training in the airspace of Saudi Arabia. The flight was part of a joint air exercise that was being conducted by the two friendly forces. At 1550 hours Bahrain time, as the time allotted for the flight was about to end, the four aircraft came together into a single formation and flew east, passing through the airspace of Saudi Arabia, towards Bahraini airspace in preparation for landing at Isa Airbase. That path is the air corridor used to exit the training area and enter the airspace of Bahrain, and did not lead the four aircraft to Qatari territory. They did not enter Qatari airspace. The Royal Bahraini Air Force takes great care to ensure that it does not approach the borders of other States.

Regrettably, the unjust claims to the contrary made by Qatar are part of its ongoing and escalating efforts to distort the facts in order to undermine security and stability and, consequently, heighten regional tensions. Such actions demonstrate that Qatar lacks credibility, as they are contrary to and incompatible with the principles of good-neighbourliness enunciated in international agreements that Qatar claims to uphold. Qatar should address its own crisis, instead. It continues to commit acts of provocation, engage in hostile conduct, support and fund terrorism, and interfere in the internal affairs of neighbouring States, thereby threatening international security and peace. Bahrain calls upon the United Nations to take action that will help bring an end to these hostile Qatari actions and to urge Qatar to respect the Charter of the United Nations and act in good faith in accordance with the norms and rules of international law.

Despite the erroneous claims and accusations that Qatar has made indiscriminately in order to distract the international community from its regrettable conduct, Bahrain, in keeping with its unwavering commitment to the Charter and its strong desire to maintain regional security and stability, will continue striving to find



peaceful solutions, in accordance with international agreements and norms and the principle of good-neighbourliness.

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

(*Signed*) Jamal Fares **Alrowaiei**
Permanent Representative
