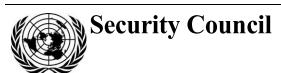
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## Letter dated 22 January 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am writing to you regarding the letter dated 12 January 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the Israeli regime to the United Nations (S/2021/33), in which, once again, a number of baseless allegations were levelled against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Dissemination of fake news and unfounded accusations against regional actors, including through the pursuit of a widespread and systematic disinformation and Iranophobic campaign, has long been a standard practice of the Israeli regime. The main objective of such attempts is but to whitewash the destabilizing policies and criminal practices of that regime in such a volatile region as the Middle East.

Nevertheless, no amount of smear campaigns against others can distract attention away from the brutalities, crimes and lawlessness of the Israeli regime, which include, but are not limited to, the waging of over 15 wars in the region in the past seven decades; the commission of acts of aggression against all its neighbours, without exception; the invasion of other countries in the region and beyond; the continuation of its unlawful occupation of Palestine and parts of Syria and Lebanon; the imposition for over a decade of an inhumane blockade on the Gaza Strip; the unlawful construction and expansion of settlements; the construction of an illegal separation wall in pursuance of its racist policies; the violation of hundreds of resolutions of the United Nations, including a large number of binding resolutions of the Security Council, inter alia, resolutions 1559 (2004), 1701 (2006) and 2334 (2016); the assassination of several Iranian nuclear scientists; and the conduct of many other subversive, divisive and destabilizing activities in the region, with farreaching implications for international peace and security.

Likewise, a brief look at the Israeli regime's practices in the area of armaments indicates how destructive and destabilizing they are, which, inter alia, include the massive accumulation of the most sophisticated conventional weapons, the development and stockpiling of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and clandestine nuclear activities in unsafeguarded nuclear facilities. The Israeli regime also refuses to join international legally binding instruments banning weapons of mass destruction and hampers all international efforts aimed at the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, as proposed by Iran in 1974.

Recalling the continued threats by the Israeli regime against my country, including the recent provocative statement by the Defense Minister of that regime "to





have a military option on the table", which are in clear breach of Article 2 (4) of the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council must compel that regime to put an end to such unlawful threats and stop all its military adventurism and destabilizing policies and practices in the region. Yet, in conformity with its inherent right to self-defence, the Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to protect its people and vital interests, and to respond decisively to any threat or use of force against its security, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Categorically rejecting the unfounded accusations against my country contained in the above-mentioned letter, as well those made by the representative of the Israeli regime at the Security Council meeting held on 26 October 2020 (see S/2020/1055), 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

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