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**The situation in the Middle East**

Security Council  
Seventy-sixth year

## **Identical letters dated 22 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

On instructions from the Lebanese Government, I should like to inform you of the following:

In 2000, the Israeli side installed buoys off Ra's al-Naqurah over a distance of 7 km westward from the coast, inside Lebanese territorial waters.

On 29 January at 0850 hours, at sea off Ra's al-Naqurah, powerful waves propelled the tenth buoy further into Lebanese territorial waters by a distance of some 720 m.

On 1 February 2021 at 1830 hours, storms and high waves propelled the tenth buoy to the south-west of its former location. It was now in Lebanese territorial waters by a distance of some 426 m.

The continuing presence of the line of buoys constitutes a standing violation and act of aggression committed by Israel against Lebanese territorial waters. By installing the buoys in the southern territorial waters of Lebanon, Israel seeks to create a buffer zone that it can use to carry out acts of aggression and provocation against Lebanon and the Lebanese people, and to create a de facto situation that would enable it to impose conditions in any negotiation process related to the delineation of borders or the extraction of natural resources.

On 23 January 2021 at 1600 hours, while the civilian Isma'il Zahrah was grazing his herd in Bastra, on the outskirts of the town of Kafr Shuba, near the cement blocks located at the entrance to the occupied Shab'a Farms, an Israeli patrol consisting of two four-wheel drive vehicles approached, and five soldiers stepped out. They unsuccessfully attempted to abduct the herder and seized some of his livestock. In so doing, they violated the line of withdrawal to the north by a distance of some 30 m. At 1620 hours, the livestock that had been taken returned, and the Israeli patrol returned to the Zabdin barracks in the occupied Shab'a Farms.

On 26 January 2021 at 1400 hours, in occupied Palestinian territory opposite the town of Mays al-Jabal opposite points B64 and B31(1), three Merkava tanks and some 35 Israeli soldiers approached. Seventeen soldiers and one of the tanks crossed



the technical fence through the gate opposite point B64, without crossing the Blue Line. The second tank took up a position opposite point B31. The third positioned itself at the emplacement at the enemy position of Dahr al-Asi. Eighteen soldiers crossed the technical fence through an opening in the fence opposite points BP31(1) and BP31(2), without crossing the Blue Line. They carried out an exercise, in the course of which they pointed their weapons and the tank cannons towards Lebanese territory and Lebanese Army soldiers, and launched three smoke bombs opposite point B64 and another three opposite points BP31(1) and BP31(2), in order to install two concealed observation cameras on a metal pole opposite the aforementioned point. Both cameras were pointed at Lebanese territory. While withdrawing behind the technical fence, they released more smoke for concealment.

On 26 January 2020 at 1836 hours, in occupied Palestinian territory at the locality of Ibl al-Qamh, opposite the town of Sarda, Israeli soldiers fired into the air in the direction of Lebanese territory for unknown reasons.

On the night of 24 and 25 December 2020, off the Lebanese coast, the Israeli side fired several missiles through Lebanese airspace in the direction of Syrian territory. The missiles were aimed at positions belonging to the scientific research laboratories in the Misyaf area of Hama Governorate.

On the night of 29 and 30 December 2020, over the Sidon area, Israeli Army warplanes launched several missiles at Syrian territory. The missiles were aimed at military positions in the Zabadani countryside, in Syrian territory.

Those acts of aggression pose a threat to international peace and security. The bombardment of Syrian territory via Lebanese airspace, in particular, endangers the safety of Lebanese territory and civilians.

I wish to reiterate that my Government honours its commitments under international resolutions, and on behalf of my Government, I call upon the Security Council to condemn this action in the strongest possible terms and exercise its authority to maintain international peace and security, in order to prevent Israel from violating the sovereignty of Lebanon by air, sea and land, and compel Israel to fulfil all its obligations under Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter issued as a document of General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Amal **Mudallali**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative