



Security Council

Distr.: General
18 March 2021

Original: English

Identical letters dated 17 March 2021 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 you in advance of the upcoming consultations regarding the implementation of Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#). It is imperative that the facts regarding the reality in Lebanon, and especially in southern Lebanon, be accurately conveyed to the Security Council for it to assess the situation effectively and attain a comprehensive and credible understanding of the activities of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the restrictions on its freedom of movement placed by Hezbollah.

Over the past months since the adoption of Security Council resolution [2539 \(2020\)](#), Hezbollah, the Iranian proxy, has continued its military entrenchment and presence in Lebanon, including throughout the UNIFIL area of operations, including along the Blue Line, in blatant violation of Security Council resolutions [1701 \(2006\)](#) and [1559 \(2004\)](#).

This dangerous situation poses a threat not only to Israel and its citizens, but also to the people of Lebanon, which Hezbollah uses as human shields to protect its arsenal of over 130,000 rockets and military infrastructure. Hezbollah conceals these military assets and operates the fictitious non-governmental organization Green without Borders as a front for its malign and illicit activities.

Hezbollah continues to operate a multitude of military installations and positions along the Blue Line. It routinely patrols the area, collects intelligence on Israel Defense Forces (IDF) activities and carries out attacks against Israeli civilians and soldiers. Moreover, Hezbollah systematically deprives UNIFIL of its ability to implement its mandate by restricting its freedom of movement and preventing it from accessing locations used for military purposes under the pretext that they are private property and roads, in order to assure the continuation of its military build-up.

During the reporting period covered in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) during the period from 21 October 2020 to 19 February 2021 ([S/2021/240](#)), IDF recorded 362 reconnaissance patrols conducted by Hezbollah in proximity of the Blue Line. These patrols consisted of known individuals following familiar paths and routes in the terrain and equipped with high-end reconnaissance equipment, such as cameras with high-resolution zoom lenses and binoculars.

In addition to these incidents, IDF recorded and reported 269 incidents of individuals crossing the Blue Line into Israel, 274 cases of the presence of armed individuals who do not belong to the Lebanese Armed Forces and 13 incidents of



rock-throwing across the Blue Line towards Israel. All of these incidents took place in the UNIFIL area of operations and in clear violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006).

Attached to the present letter is an updated map illustrating the precarious security situation in southern Lebanon due to Hezbollah activities in the heart of the UNIFIL area of operations (see annex). The map illustrates locations in which the freedom of movement of UNIFIL was restricted, or its access altogether denied, on the basis of the locations noted in the aforementioned report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). The fact that some of these locations are mentioned time and time again in the reports of the Secretary-General on this matter clearly demonstrates that these attacks, acts of intimidation and restrictions on movement are not coincidental, but rather a part of a broader, premeditated and intentional strategy.

The map, which has been constructed solely on the basis of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), is an updated version of the one sent to the Security Council and to the Secretary-General in my letter dated 16 November 2020.

I would like to reiterate that Israel seeks stability in the region and is not interested in escalation. However, Hezbollah's continued military build-up and harmful activities have the potential to lead to serious consequences, including a renewal of large-scale hostilities between the parties. An effective implementation of the mandate of UNIFIL is critical in order to ensure the stability in southern Lebanon and along the Blue Line.

I would like to emphasize the need for an accurate reflection of the situation in southern Lebanon to the Security Council during consultations and reports on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006), in order to guarantee their informed discussion and action, as necessary.

I call upon the Security Council to demand concrete action from UNIFIL and the Lebanese authorities to ensure that Hezbollah ceases its repeated violations of resolution 1701 (2006).

Likewise, I reiterate the need to provide UNIFIL with the means to implement its core missions and implement its mandate effectively, including taking all actions necessary to ensure that no armed forces, other than those of the Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL are operating in southern Lebanon, in accordance with resolution 1701 (2006), and ensuring that its area of operations is not utilized for hostile activities against Israel.

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

(Signed) Gilad **Erdan**
Ambassador of Israel to the United States and the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 17 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

