



## Security Council

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### **Letter dated 1 February 2023 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

Further to the letter dated 3 January 2023 (S/2023/9), I would like to draw the attention of the Security Council to further instances of the Israeli regime's acts of terrorism and sabotage as well as violations of international law against the Islamic Republic of Iran. On Saturday, 28 January 2023, at 11.30 p.m. (local time), an attempt was made to launch a terrorist attack against a workshop complex of the Iranian Defense Ministry in the city of Isfahan using three micro aerial vehicles. Fortunately, Iran's air defence system was able to intercept and bring down two of the drones, effectively thwarting the attack. Early investigations suggest that the Israeli regime was responsible for this attempted act of aggression.

Meanwhile, the Israeli regime persists in its violations of international law and the Charter of the United Nations through its threats to use force against Iran's critical infrastructure, including Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities. This hostile behaviour was recently exemplified by provocative statements made by Isaac Herzog, the President of the Israeli regime, on 27 January 2023, during his visit to NATO headquarters in Brussels, in which he declared that NATO must take a strong stance against Iran through economic, legal and political sanctions and credible military deterrence.<sup>1</sup> On 16 January 2023, the Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Forces, Lt. Gen. Aviv Kochavi, used threatening language similar to other Israeli regime authorities when he claimed three operational plans to attack Iran. He stated: "These extend from a retaliatory strike on Iran that would be unrelated to the nuclear issue, to the taking out of the Iranian nuclear installations and auxiliary sites in that project, and if the situation eventually escalates into a full-fledged campaign then these plans also include the targeting of military sites and other assets." In response to a question about the Israeli regime's ability to destroy Iran's nuclear programme as it did in Iraq and Syria, he replied: "Let me put it in more precise words: I meant neutralizing; inflicting major damage to Iran's nuclear program."<sup>2</sup>

Furthermore, in a recent interview with CNN on 31 January 2023, the Prime Minister of the Israel regime, Benjamin Netanyahu, admitted Israel's involvement in acts of sabotage and terrorism in Iran. He stated that Israel has been "taking action against certain weapons development" and added that: "I never talk about specific

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<sup>1</sup> See [www.timesofisrael.com/pointing-to-ukraine-war-herzog-urges-strongest-possible-nato-stance-against-iran/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/pointing-to-ukraine-war-herzog-urges-strongest-possible-nato-stance-against-iran/).

<sup>2</sup> See [www.israelhayom.com/2023/01/13/it-would-be-intolerable-to-have-the-idf-get-two-conflicting-sets-of-orders/](https://www.israelhayom.com/2023/01/13/it-would-be-intolerable-to-have-the-idf-get-two-conflicting-sets-of-orders/).



operations ... and every time some explosion takes place in the Middle East, Israel is blamed or given responsibility – sometimes we are sometimes we're not.”<sup>3</sup>

This is not the first instance where the Israeli regime has made threats to use force or carried out criminal and terrorist acts within Iranian territory. In recent years, this regime has frequently threatened Iran and conducted numerous acts of terrorism and sabotage against Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities, officials, scientists and civilians, as outlined in our letter of 7 September 2022 (S/2022/679). The Israeli regime has openly admitted its involvement in these reprehensible crimes. Hence, it must be held accountable for all criminal and terrorist acts committed against Iran and face the consequences without exception.

In light of the destructive consequences of the Israeli regime's persistent malicious activities in the region, particularly its threat to use force against Iran's critical infrastructure and peaceful nuclear facilities, the Security Council must fulfil its responsibility under the Charter and condemn Israel's warmongering statements and acts of terrorism, including State terrorism, which pose a serious threat to regional and international peace and security. The Security Council must also demand that the Israeli regime comply with international law and cease its dangerous plans and malicious activities in the region.

The Islamic Republic of Iran reserves its legitimate and inherent right, in accordance with international law and the Charter, to defend its national security and respond resolutely to any threats or wrongful actions by the Israeli regime, wherever and whenever deemed necessary.

I would also like to bring to the attention of the Security Council the concerning provocative and unjustified statement made by a senior official from Ukraine. On 29 January 2023, Mykhailo Podolyak, a Senior Advisor to President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, threatened brazenly to use force against Iran's critical infrastructure with a tweet that read: “Explosive night in Iran, drone-missile production, and oil refineries; Ukraine had warned you.” This statement came in the aftermath of an Israeli terrorist attack on Iranian territory and attempted to directly link to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. This kind of behaviour and the thoughtless statement are not only reckless and irresponsible but also a clear violation of international law and the principles set forth in the Charter. Such belligerent behaviour must be firmly condemned and not tolerated.

The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates once more its principled position on the current conflict in Ukraine, which is based on active impartiality and neutrality. Iran opposes any form of conflict or war, both in Ukraine and around the world. Iran also places a high priority on respecting Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity. Iran supports resolving the conflict in Ukraine peacefully and through diplomatic means, using negotiations as the means to find a peaceful solution.

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

(Signed) Amir Saeid **Irvani**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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<sup>3</sup> See [www.cnn.com/2023/01/31/middleeast/benjamin-netanyahu-cnn-interview-israel-intl/index.html](https://www.cnn.com/2023/01/31/middleeast/benjamin-netanyahu-cnn-interview-israel-intl/index.html).