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The situation in the Middle East

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## Identical letters dated 8 April 2023 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from the Government of Lebanon, we entrust to you below Lebanon's comments on some of the content of your latest report on the implementation of Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#), contained in document [S/2023/184](#):

- Regarding the incident of Al-Aqibiya that occurred on 14 December 2022, the Lebanese army arrested and interrogated the suspects. A judicial process was initiated whereby one of the wanted persons was arrested, and arrest warrants were issued in absentia against the other indictees. The Lebanese authorities emphasize that the incident was isolated and unplanned.
- Concerning the allegations put forward in the letter of the Israeli representative contained in document [S/2023/74](#), Lebanon reiterates that those allegations are groundless and thus refers to its previous letter reflecting Lebanon's official reply in this regard, contained in document [A/77/791-S/2023/176](#).
- Lebanon requests to amend the reference to "Northern Ghajar and the adjacent area north of the blue line", which is usually mentioned in the relevant reports of the Secretary-General, and to adopt, in all reports and documents issued by the United Nations in this context, the name that Lebanon referred to in the identical letters contained in document [A/77/708-S/2023/49](#), as follows: "the occupied lands in the outskirts of the town of Al-Mari, which partly includes the urban expansion of the village of Ghajar."
- Lebanon emphasizes that the tensions on the Blue Line result from Israel's continuous violations of this Line, including its recent construction of a concrete T-wall inside the occupied Lebanese territories, opposite the town of Alma al-Shaab. The Security Council should condemn such violations.
- Lebanon expresses its readiness to embark on an exercise of delineating its southern borders, starting from the point B1.

\* Reissued for technical reasons on 17 May 2023.



- Lebanon notes that “Green Without Borders” is an environmental non-governmental organization that is duly and legally registered according to relevant Lebanese laws.

With regard to the issue of handing over to the authorities the Syrian detainees who survived the boat accident on 31 December 2022, as mentioned in paragraph 57 of the latest report of the Secretary-General, in which it was tacitly implied that this was done without due process, Lebanon reaffirms that its authorities abide by (a) the applicable national laws and procedures in force and (b) Lebanon’s relevant international obligations.

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter circulated as a document of the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 32, and of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* **Jeanne Mrad**  
Counsellor  
Chargé d’affaires a.i.

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