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The situation in the Middle East

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Seventy-ninth year

Identical letters dated 13 March 2024 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

On instructions from the Government of Lebanon, I bring to your kind attention the present letter concerning Israeli attacks on peaceable residential areas in Baalbek and Kisrawan. The details are as follows:

On 11 March 2024, which was first day of Ramadan, the month of fasting for Muslims, Israeli aircraft carried out a number of air strikes in the Bekaa region in eastern Lebanon. One targeted a residential building in the town of Ansar, south of the city of Baalbek, and a second targeted a warehouse between the towns of Shmistar and Tariya, west of the city of Baalbek. These strikes caused a number of casualties and injuries among unarmed civilians. They caused great destruction and terrorized peaceable civilians. This is the third time that Israel has attacked the Bekaa region since 8 October 2023.

On 12 March 2024, an unexploded missile was discovered in the town of Harajil in the Kisrawan district in central Lebanon. It had been fired by an Israeli aircraft flying over Lebanese airspace. The incident was cause for panic and concern among residents of the area. With these attacks, Israel is trying to intimidate Lebanese civilians, who have now lost their sense of security and safety no matter where they are. The Israeli air force is constantly breaking the sound barrier over various peaceable Lebanese areas, which creates a loud and frightening boom that causes terror among civilians, especially children.

Given the foregoing, Lebanon condemns in the strongest terms the continuous attacks by Israel against its sovereignty, territorial integrity and citizens, in flagrant violation of international law and international humanitarian law. It sees this escalation, which has affected areas far from the southern Lebanese border, as a sign that Israel wants to expand the conflict and drag the entire region into a war. Israel hopes that these acts of aggression will spark the regional war that the Israeli Government wants to rescue it from its domestic difficulties. It imagines that that is the way for it to achieve security and stability, while it flouts Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#), whose full implementation would guarantee stability and tranquillity for all.



Lebanon urges the international community to apply pressure on Israel to curb its continually escalating aggression. It calls once again for the members of the Security Council to unanimously condemn Israeli attacks against Lebanon and prevent the situation from deteriorating and the war from widening.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hadi **Hachem**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
