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The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Seventy-ninth year

**Identical letters dated 30 July 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**

I transmit to you herewith a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Emigrants of Lebanon, Abdallah Bouhabib, addressed to the President of the Security Council (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex 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.



**Annex to the identical letters dated 30 July 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**

[Original: English]

**Letter dated 29 July 2024 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
and Emigrants of Lebanon addressed to the President of the
Security Council**

Lebanon expresses great concern over the tragedy of 27 July, in the town of Majdal Shams in the occupied Syrian Golan, which caused the death of 112 children and injured tens of others. The circumstances surrounding this terrible incident remain unclear, and the responsibility of the Israeli occupying forces cannot be ruled out.

Lebanon has been swift, decisive and firm in condemning all forms of violence against civilians and attacks on their livelihoods. It has categorically denounced any and all attacks that result in the loss of innocent lives. In its statement on 27 July 2024, the Government of Lebanon expressed in unequivocal terms that “targeting civilians is considered a blatant violation of international humanitarian law and contravenes principles of humanity”.

The claim by Israel that it seeks to protect the very population it occupies in the occupied Syrian Golan is a baseless display of political hypocrisy. Moreover, its claim of self-defence does not hold under international law, as it pertains to an occupied territory.

The true intentions of Israel are to prolong and escalate hostilities. This is particularly appalling considering that, after targeting and killing tens of thousands of Palestinian children in Gaza, Israel now seeks to instrumentalize a still unclear incident in the occupied Syrian Golan to mount more attacks on Lebanon, where its continuous aggression, since 8 October, has claimed the lives of more than 107 civilians so far, including 25 women, 12 children, 23 rescue workers and 3 journalists, and has displaced around 100,000 civilians from their homes. In addition, Israel continues to bomb Lebanon with white phosphorus, including in populated areas. Moreover, it is deliberately targeting the Lebanese environment and has so far burned 17 million square metres of land. This daily aggression on Lebanon is accompanied by persistent inflammatory rhetoric and frequent Israeli threats, including threats to send Lebanon back to the “stone age”.

It is very clear that the narrative put forth by Israel seeks to divert attention from its own long-standing violations of international law to obscure the reality of its prolonged occupation and the daily suffering inflicted upon the Palestinian people and the Syrian population of the occupied Syrian Golan. Israel attempts to mislead the international community about its illegal occupation of Arab territories and to abort genuine efforts aimed towards achieving peace and justice in the region. Instead, the prolonged occupation and continued aggression under the pretext of self-defence ought to be condemned outright by the international community. Sustainable security and stability in the region can be achieved only through a just and comprehensive peace that addresses the root causes of the conflict and leads to the withdrawal of the Israeli occupying forces from all occupied Lebanese territories, the occupied Palestinian territory and the occupied Syrian Golan, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions.

The current situation is highly volatile, and any misstep or miscalculation would engulf the whole region in a widespread war, with devastating consequences for all. Achieving a durable ceasefire on all fronts is the only viable way to prevent further civilian casualties and to avert further escalations or miscalculations.

Lebanon reiterates its commitment to the implementation of Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#), in its entirety, as a cornerstone of stability along the Blue Line and calls on the Security Council to compel Israel to abide by it and cease its daily violations and hostilities against Lebanon.

Lebanon emphasizes that the cessation of hostilities on all fronts and the full implementation of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) are the only viable paths forward. These measures are crucial to sparing civilians and innocent lives from the horrors of war.

The Security Council must live up to its responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and security and compel Israel to implement its resolutions pertaining to the aggression on Gaza, the latest of which is resolution [2735 \(2024\)](#), in order to reach a ceasefire that would lead to wider stability in the region.

(Signed) Abdallah **Bouhabib**
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Emigrants
