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The situation in the Middle East

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Eightieth year

Identical letters dated 1 January 2025 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 draw to your kind attention the present letter regarding the ongoing Israeli aggression against the agricultural sector.

Israel has continued to attack the agricultural sector in Lebanon, including following the announcement of a cessation of hostilities and related commitments on enhanced security arrangements and towards the implementation of Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#), which was agreed upon as a result of internationally sponsored efforts and which provides that the cessation of hostilities between Lebanon and Israel would commence at dawn on 27 November 2024. These attacks have caused significant damage that has affected food security and farmers' livelihoods.

The following is a list of some of the most significant attacks:

- Destruction of the seedling propagation project in Wadi al-Hujayr: On 28 December 2024, Israeli forces destroyed the seedling propagation project in Wadi al-Hujayr that had been launched with the support of the World Food Program and the European Union. That project was one of the most significant initiatives aimed at supporting farmers and increasing agricultural production in the south.
- Bulldozing of olive and citrus groves: On 15 December 2024, Israeli forces attacked the olive groves in the town of Kafr Kila, causing heavy damage to the crops. In addition, on 22 December 2024, Israeli forces bulldozed citrus groves in the Naqurah area, causing farmers to sustain great losses.
- Attack against the fishing port in Naqurah: On 25 December 2024, Israeli enemy soldiers vandalized and looted the fishing port in Naqurah. Several fishers had headed there in order to take remove boats from the port in coordination with troops of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. However, the occupying soldiers fired at the port before the time allotted to the fishers had expired, forcing them to withdraw.



- Abduction of the Lebanese shepherd Mahmud Musa: On 23 December 2024, Israeli forces abducted the Lebanese shepherd Mahmud Musa on the outskirts of the towns of Ayn Ibil and Yarun as he was tending livestock in the Wadi al-Hujayr border area.
- Destruction of agricultural roads and infrastructure: On 20 December 2024, Israeli forces destroyed the agricultural roads that connect villages in the areas of Tayyibah and Udaysah, in the south. Many other similar incidents have been recorded.

These appalling attacks constitute a clear violation of international law and a direct threat to the sovereignty and food security of Lebanon. Lebanon reaffirms that it abides by the announcement of the cessation of hostilities and calls upon the Security Council to take immediate action to halt these attacks and safeguard the rights of farmers and fishers in the affected areas, and to also empower them by protecting their livelihoods. Lebanon also calls upon the Council to do what is needed in order to hold Israel accountable and compel it to pay compensation for all the damage caused by its aggression against the agricultural sector and all other sectors.

Lebanon also calls upon the States members of the Security Council, in particular the sponsors of the announcement of the cessation of hostilities, to take a resolute and clear position regarding the repeated violation by Israel of the provisions of the announcement. In addition, Lebanon calls for increased support for UNIFIL and the Lebanese army, in order to protect the sovereignty of Lebanon and establish the security conditions that will make it possible for Lebanon to restore stability and ensure the security of its citizens.

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.
