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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL  
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Letter dated 20 September 1988 from the Permanent Representative of  
Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to my previous letters, I have the honour to state that Israeli forces have carried out a new act of aggression against Lebanese territory outside the so-called "security zone".

At 1730 hours local time on 16 September last, an Israeli force of an estimated 200 troops supported by 30 tanks and one armoured personnel carrier penetrated beyond the so-called "security zone" after having removed the earth embankment on the main Mimis-Hasibiya road. The attack was divided into two axes, the first in the direction of Mimis and the second in the direction of Ayn Ata. The attack had been preceded by a preparatory heavy artillery bombardment from within the so-called "security zone" aimed against Mimis, Kafir and Ayn Ata, where a number of inhabitants were wounded and a number of houses destroyed as a result of the bombardment. The aggressor forces then entered the villages of Mimis, Kafir and Khalwah, where they imposed a curfew and proceeded to search houses and intimidate the inhabitants before withdrawing a few hours after their incursion into the area.

This new act of aggression is yet another manifestation of Israel's disdain for the Charter of the United Nations, the norms of international law and the principles of national sovereignty and human rights.

\* A/43/150.

A/43/620  
S/20194  
English  
Page 2

The Government of Lebanon, in condemning this new assault, calls the attention of world public opinion to the gravity of the fact that Israel is persisting in its inhuman practices and with its military arrogance in southern Lebanon, thereby aggravating the already tense situation there and in the Middle East region as a whole.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 40 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rachid FAKHOURY  
Permanent Representative

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