



H.E. Ambassador T. S. Tirumurti
President of the Security Council
United Nations
New York

6 August 2021

Excellency,

I am writing to you with great urgency concerning the recent rocket attacks against Israel from within Lebanon.

On 6 August 2021 Hezbollah fired a barrage of 19 rockets at Israel. This attack comes only two days after three additional rockets were fired towards Israel from Lebanon. Two of the rockets fired on 4 August 2021 landed in the vicinity of the city of Qiryat Shmona, sending tens of thousands of Israeli civilians, including young children, to bomb shelters. The third rocket fell short of the Blue Line, inside Lebanese territory.

The abovementioned attacks against Israel follow four separate rocket attacks on Israeli towns and villages in the past three months (20 July, 13, 17 and 19 May), representing an unacceptable reality that could destabilize the region. Hezbollah's continued aggression and its terrorist infrastructure are a threat not only to Israel, but also to the people of Lebanon who are cynically used as human shields as rockets are fired within populated areas.

Israel holds the Government of Lebanon responsible for any action originating from within its territory, regardless of the affiliation of the individuals or the terrorist group that carried out the attacks. These repeated attempts to harm Israeli civilians and breaches of Israel's sovereignty are further indications of the Lebanese government's failure to exert control over all parts of its territory.

The recent attacks and growing tensions in the region, exacerbated by Iran's activities and arming of its proxies, especially Hezbollah, demonstrate once again the urgent need to actively enforce UN Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006). The aforementioned incidents constitute undeniable proof of the presence of terrorist organizations and of their infrastructure in UNIFIL's Area of Operations and beyond, and illustrate once again the need for UNIFIL to effectively and fully implement its mandate.

These most recent terrorist attacks were carried out on the one-year anniversary of the explosion in the port of Beirut and as Lebanon finds itself in a deep crisis. It is clear that Hezbollah and other terrorist organizations are trying to distract from their active role in bringing Lebanon to its current state of crisis by attacking Israeli civilians. The international community must take action to prevent these organizations from diverting resources needed to rehabilitate Lebanon towards their malign activities and prevent them from instigating conflict in the region.



The actions of Hezbollah and other terrorist organizations, as well as the Lebanese government's failure to prevent them, have the potential to wreak havoc and cause destruction in Lebanon. While Israel is not interested in escalation, we will not allow attacks on Israeli civilians to go unanswered. If these attacks continue, Israel will have no choice but to respond and dismantle Hezbollah's terrorist infrastructure that threatens Israel's security and the lives of its citizens.

I call upon the Security Council to unequivocally condemn these grave violations, and to remain seized on these matters in its upcoming deliberations on Security Council Resolution 1701. Furthermore, it is imperative that the latest attacks be faithfully reflected in the Secretary-General's reports on the implementation of Resolution 1701.

I would be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as an official document of the Security Council. Please note that an identical letter has been sent to H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to be 'G. Erdan'.

Gilad Erdan
Ambassador of Israel to the United States and the United Nations

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