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The rule of law at the national and international levels

**Letter dated 11 April 2019 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the
President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the letter dated 10 April 2019 from Mohammad Javad Zarif, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with regard to the unlawful designation of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps – an official branch of the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran – as a so-called “Foreign Terrorist Organization” by the current administration of the United States of America (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if you could have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 86, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eshagh Al Habib
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



**Annex to the letter dated 11 April 2019 from the Chargé d'affaires
a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to
the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the
President of the Security Council**

I wish to bring to your attention the unprecedented, unlawful and dangerous designation of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps – an official branch of the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran – as a so-called “Foreign Terrorist Organization” by the current lawless administration of the United States of America. The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns this baseless and provocative move and deems this a hostile act against the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as a grave threat to regional and international peace and security. This action, which is without precedent – even for this United States regime, which has engaged in many illegal unilateral measures and designations – constitutes a breach of generally recognized principles of international law and of the Charter of the United Nations, including the principle of sovereign equality of States.

This provocative move will increase tensions to an uncontrollable and confrontational level and increases the danger of accidents and incidents in a region already facing numerous challenges. It is self-evident that the United States regime – along with those who have publicly acknowledged agitating this designation, as well as the two or three client regimes that have supported this – shall bear full responsibility for all consequences of this adventurism.

Unlike the United States and its regional clients, which have always supported extremist groups and terrorists in the West Asia region – as manifestly admitted, including by the current United States president during his election campaign – the Iranian armed forces, including and especially the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, have consistently been at the forefront of the fight against terrorism and extremism in the region. The role of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in the battles against Security Council-designated terrorist groups, such as Al-Qaeda, ISIS, the al-Nusra Front and other terrorist groups in the region, has always been noted and praised by the affected people and Governments.

In a reciprocal response to the unlawful and unwise move by the United States, the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that it designates the United States regime a “State Sponsor of Terrorism” and the United States Central Command and all its affiliated forces a “terrorist group”. The United States Central Command is responsible for implementing the terrorist policies of the United States administration against the West Asia region by wilfully targeting civilians in order to advance hostile United States policies. The United States Central Command has endangered the national security of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the lives of innocent Iranians and non-Iranians, including with its brutal and intentional attack on an Iranian passenger plane in 1988, as well as its complicity in the slaughter of Yemeni people and other civilians in West Asia.

The Islamic Republic of Iran would also like to make clear that, despite numerous examples of acts of a terrorist nature implemented directly or indirectly by the United States Central Command, designation of this government body as a terrorist organization by Iran is solely based on reciprocity and shall not be construed as a shift in Iran’s legal position with regard to the principle of sovereign equality of States and the definition of terrorism.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) M. Javad **Zarif**
