



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.: General
11 May 2020
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Seventy-fourth session
Agenda item 34
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Seventy-fifth year

Identical letters dated 7 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following information.

In the identical letters dated 19 April 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council ([S/2020/318](#)), Israel claims that, on 17 April 2020, the Israeli army detected three locations where the technical fence along the Blue Line had been breached by Hizbullah.

On 17 April 2020, the Israeli army fired 21 flare shells opposite the Lebanese towns of Wazzani, Hula, Kafr Kila and Sarda. Seven of those shells crossed the Blue Line and fell inside Lebanese territory. The Israeli army also pointed weapons towards Lebanese army personnel and the cannon of a Merkava tank towards Lebanese territory, flew a drone towards Lebanese airspace and fired 15 bullets, a number of which breached the Blue Line and crossed into Lebanese territory.

On 19 April 2020, an investigative team from the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), accompanied by a Lebanese army patrol, inspected the locations where Israel claims that there are gaps in the technical fence. No evidence was founding indicating that the gaps in the technical fence had been opened from the Lebanese side. The UNIFIL investigation did not uncover any information that confirms the allegations of Israel. Indeed, it was discovered that Israel had covered up the evidence and closed the gaps, an action that impeded the investigative team's work. Moreover, access from the Lebanese side is impeded by the minefields in the vicinity of the gaps south of the town of Yarun and east of Matulla that Israel had laid during its occupation of the area.

We note that the Israeli army has frequently breached the technical fence mentioned in its complaint. One of those breaches occurred at 1700 hours on 7 February 2020. A 14-member Israeli army patrol was observed inside occupied Lebanese territory, opposite Ra's al-Naqurah, carrying out an inspection in the vicinity of the technical fence. One of the Israeli soldiers scaled the technical fence and the gate of the Italian battalion's position (A32-1) and proceeded to search the



courtyard and the perimeter of the steel fence, without being observed by the Italian soldiers, who made no attempt to drive the Israeli patrol from the position, which is inside Lebanese territory. The Israeli patrol returned to the other side of the technical fence at 1920 hours. In another incident, which occurred on 27 April 2020, an Israeli patrol opened a hole in the technical fence opposite the town of Aytarun and passed through it, breaching the Blue Line, and proceeded to put up metal poles.

The aforementioned incidents, which demonstrate that Israel constantly tampers with the technical fence, covers up the evidence of its violations and then accuses Lebanon of having committed those violations, all the while reiterating that it reserves the right to respond, are in line with the well-known practices that Israel uses to justify its repeated violations of the sovereignty of Lebanon. The aim is to mislead Security Council members about the violations regularly committed by Israel of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon, or to set the stage for new violations.

If Israel is serious about its call to concentrate international efforts on combating the COVID-19 pandemic, as stated in the letter from its Permanent Representative, it would do well to cease its ongoing violations of the sovereignty of Lebanon, the frequency of which has increased, implement the relevant international resolutions, in particular Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#), and refrain from threatening the stability of Lebanon and the entire region.

Lebanon is committed to ensuring the freedom of movement of UNIFIL in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions, and that commitment has been documented in the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#). The Lebanese army and UNIFIL forces must enhance their coordination in order to prevent a repetition of the incidents that occurred in Majdal Zun and Bra'shit; the Lebanese authorities strive to address such regrettable incidents as quickly as possible and prevent their recurrence.

I wish to reiterate that my Government honours its commitments under international resolutions, and on behalf of my Government, I call upon the Security Council to act in accordance with its powers and do what is required to compel Israel to implement Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) and stop tampering with the technical fence. Moreover, the Council must deter Israel from committing any further aggression against Lebanon and force it to cease its daily violations of the sovereignty of Lebanon by land, sea and air, which have escalated to the point where Israel is now firing missiles from Lebanese airspace towards third States, thereby threatening regional stability.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34 on the situation in the Middle East, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Amal **Mudallali**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative