

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 11 December 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to convey herewith a letter dated 11 December 2015 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, Ibrahim Al-Jaafari, regarding the Turkish military incursion into Iraqi territory (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohamed Ali **Alhakim**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 11 December 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Iraq is currently waging a war against global terrorism in order to defend itself and all the States of the world. Its army and various security forces are engaged in momentous battles against Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which is in control of certain Iraqi cities. In such times, neighbouring States should preserve the security and sovereignty of Iraq and assist it in its war against terrorism.

On the evening of 3 December 2015, Turkish military forces comprising hundreds of soldiers and a number of tanks and armoured vehicles crossed the internationally recognized borders of Iraq and penetrated some 110 km into its territory. They set up camp in the Ba'shiqah region, near the city of Mosul, in northern Iraq. Those actions were taken without prior coordination or consultation with the federal Government of Iraq and are therefore in flagrant violation of the provisions and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. They also violate the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Iraqi State, which are guaranteed by the provisions of the Charter, the principles of international law and the relevant Security Council resolutions, which reaffirm the independence, sovereignty and territorial unity and integrity of Iraq.

The entry of Turkish forces, including heavy combat equipment and a large number of troops, deep into Iraq territory is an act of provocation and violates international law. Those military movements are an act of aggression under the Charter and the relevant provisions of international law.

In its letter of 25 June 2014 to the Secretary-General (S/2014/440) and its letter of 22 September 2014 to the President of the Security Council (S/2014/691), Iraq stressed that the military training, advanced technology and weapons it needs to fight the ISIL terrorist organization must be provided in accordance with the relevant bilateral and multilateral agreements, with full respect for the national sovereignty and Constitution of Iraq, and in coordination with the Iraqi armed forces. Accordingly, Iraq rejects, strenuously opposes and condemns in the strongest possible terms any military movements aimed at countering terrorism that take place without prior consultation with the federal Government of Iraq and without its approval.

Iraq believes that disputes should be resolved through dialogue and is highly desirous of preserving good-neighbourly relations and mutual respect with Turkey. It has therefore attempted to control the situation through diplomatic means and bilateral discussions. However, those efforts have failed to persuade Turkey to withdraw its forces, which are occupying Iraqi territory.

Iraq calls on the Security Council to shoulder its responsibility to maintain international peace and security under the Charter by protecting Iraq and preserving its security, sovereignty and territorial unity and integrity, which Turkish forces violated when they entered Iraqi territory without the knowledge or approval of the federal Government of Iraq. We call on the Security Council to order Turkey to withdraw its forces immediately and to ensure, by all available means, that those forces retreat immediately and unconditionally to the internationally recognized

border of the two countries. The Council should also order Turkey not to repeat such violations of the sovereignty of Iraq, as they are harmful to international relations and pose a great threat to regional and international security.

We should like to inform you that, in accordance with the Charter and international law, Iraq reserves the right to defend itself and take all measures required to put an end to this act of aggression and halt Turkish transgressions in Iraqi territory, because such actions undermine good-neighbourly relations and threaten international security and peace.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ibrahim **Al-Jafari**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq
