

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 1 August 2019 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I wish, on behalf of my Government, to report that, on 18 July 2019, the United States took action in the self-defence of United States forces following a threat to a United States Navy vessel by forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On that date, at approximately 10 a.m. local time, the amphibious ship USS *Boxer* was in international waters conducting a planned inbound transit of the Strait of Hormuz. Iranian unmanned aerial systems approached the USS *Boxer* and closed within a threatening range. In response, and in accordance with the inherent right of self-defence, United States forces aboard the ship took necessary and proportionate defensive military action to ensure the safety of the ship and its crew, resulting in the destruction of one or more unmanned aerial systems.

This action occurred in the context of a series of escalating hostile acts by the Islamic Republic of Iran that have endangered international peace and security, including recent attacks on commercial vessels off of the port of Fujayrah and in the Gulf of Oman. In addition, on 19 June 2019, the Islamic Republic of Iran used a surface-to-air missile to shoot down an unmanned United States Navy MQ-4 surveillance aircraft monitoring the Strait of Hormuz. The aircraft was operating in international airspace on a routine surveillance mission, supporting the freedom of navigation and the security of international commerce.

The United States wishes to note that it stands ready to engage without preconditions in serious negotiations with Iran, with the goal of preventing further endangerment of international peace and security or escalation by the Iranian regime.

I ask that you circulate the text of the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Cherith **Norman-Chalet**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Ambassador

