

**Security Council**

Distr.: General  
12 August 2021

Original: English

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**Identical letters dated 12 August 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

I am writing to follow up to my letter dated 6 August 2021 ([S/2021/710](#)), and to express my extreme concern regarding the manner in which Lebanese authorities handled the attacks reported in that letter – particularly the immediate release by the Government of Lebanon of the four Hezbollah terrorists who perpetrated the rocket attacks detailed in my previous letter.

As you recall, on 6 August, Hezbollah fired from within civilian areas a barrage of 19 rockets into northern Israel. This attack came only two days after the terrorist organization had fired three rockets at Israel. Following the attacks, the four Hezbollah terrorists responsible for firing the missiles were apprehended in an adjacent village and handed over to Lebanese authorities. It should be noted that they were found carrying 12 additional rockets that had yet to be fired. Astonishingly, however, all four of these terrorists – who had violated Israeli sovereignty and targeted Israeli civilians, in brazen violation of Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) and international law – were released on the instruction of the Lebanese Deputy Attorney General within 24 hours of being detained.

The release of the four terrorists clearly smacks of politics, and underlines the extent of Iran's and its proxy, Hezbollah's, domination of local government and power in Lebanon. Moreover, such an act of impunity serves only to encourage further attacks on Israel, severely endangering regional stability and civilians on both sides of the Blue Line. In this context, it is important to recall that these types of attacks – perpetrated from within populated areas using local Lebanese residents as human shields – imperil not only Israel and Israelis, but Lebanese civilians as well.

The Lebanese Government's abrogation of its authority in this and other incidents and its allowance of Hezbollah to have free reign over southern Lebanon is of particular concern as we approach discussions on the annual renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Lebanon's complete inaction is in total violation of Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#). The Lebanese Government must fully uphold its international obligations and prevent such attacks from taking place on Lebanese soil. And when such attacks are perpetrated, we demand no less than full accountability.

I call upon the Security Council once again to condemn these grave violations unequivocally, and to denounce in no uncertain terms the Lebanese Government's lack of action in this matter, in violation of its international obligations and in complicity with Iran and Hezbollah. Furthermore, I ask that the Council remain seized



of these matters in its upcoming deliberations on Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#). It is paramount for the security of the region that the Council address in a meaningful way how to ensure the effective enforcement of Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) on the ground, and prevent Iranian and Hezbollah hegemony in southern Lebanon. Moreover, it is imperative that the latest attacks and the Lebanese Government's utter failure to prevent them – not to mention Lebanon's subsequent failure to take concrete action against the perpetrators – be faithfully reflected in the Secretary-General's reports on the implementation of Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#).

I would be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Gilad **Erdan**  
Ambassador of Israel to the United States and the United Nations

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