



## Security Council

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### **Letter dated 27 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I wish to report, on behalf of my Government, that the United States, in an exercise of its inherent right of self-defence, as reflected in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, has undertaken a targeted military strike in eastern Syria against infrastructure used by Iran-supported non-State militia groups.

In recent weeks, United States and Coalition partner forces in Iraq have been the target of an escalating series of threats and attacks by such non-State militia groups. These include a rocket attack near Erbil, Iraq, on 15 February that wounded one United States service member, wounded four United States contractors, including one critically, and killed one Filipino contractor.

In response to these attacks, the United States has taken military action in eastern Syria against a facility used by Iran-supported non-State militia groups that are responsible for recent attacks against United States personnel and are engaged in ongoing planning for future such attacks. This necessary and proportionate action was taken to defend United States personnel and to deter further attacks. This military response was conducted together with diplomatic measures, including consultation with Coalition partners.

The continued operation of such non-State militia groups in Syria, and in particular the use of Syrian territory by groups engaged in attacks on United States forces in Iraq, constitutes a threat to the United States and to the region. As noted in the United States' letter to the Security Council of 23 September 2014, States must be able to defend themselves, in accordance with the inherent right of self-defence reflected in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, when, as is the case here, the government of the State where the threat is located is unwilling or unable to prevent the use of its territory by non-State militia groups responsible for such attacks.

The United States remains prepared to use necessary and proportionate force in self-defence to respond to future threats to the United States and Coalition forces.

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

*(Signed)* Linda **Thomas-Greenfield**  
Ambassador

Representative of the United States to the United Nations

