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The situation in the Middle East

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## Identical letters dated 13 October 2023 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from the Government of Lebanon, I transmit, for your kind attention, the present letter regarding Israeli aggressions against Lebanon that were committed at the same time as the Israeli aggression against Palestine.

From 1 October 2023 to date, Israeli attacks against Lebanon have been increasing. Those attacks have included firing shots at and hurling bombs towards Lebanese civilians and farmers inside Lebanese territory. Other transgressions have included the violation by Israeli vessels of the maritime borders of Lebanon and the continued violation of Lebanese airspace by Israeli aircraft.

The Israeli attacks that occurred on 8 October included the firing of rockets and artillery and tank shells at the outskirts of several Lebanese towns, including the towns of Kafr Shuba, Shab'a, Habbariyah and Rashayya al-Fukhkhar.

The Israeli attacks continued on 9 October. This time, artillery and tank shells struck several Lebanese towns, including Duhayrah, Marwahin and Yarin, as well as the outskirts of Alma al-Sha'b. In addition, Israeli aircraft carried out two raids, injuring one female child and killing civilians. Moreover, 120 artillery and tank shells were fired at the outskirts of the town of Ayta al-Sha'b. The Israeli attack was also directed against the outskirts of the town of Yarun, opposite point BP17. Some 39 artillery and tank shells fell near the tower at position UNP 6–50 of the Irish-Polish contingent of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. On the same day, Israeli aircraft attacked the outskirts of the towns of Yatar and Marwahin. Meanwhile, 25 artillery and tank shell shells were fired at forest land in the town of Rumaysh, striking a Lebanese Army post and injuring an officer. The Israelis also struck the outskirts of the towns of Aytarun, Ayta al-Sha'b and Rumaysh with more than 40 artillery shells.

On 10 October, the Israelis fired artillery and tank shells and rockets, including phosphorous artillery shells, at the towns of Duhayrah and Labbunah (23 shells); the outskirts of the town of Zibqin (8 shells); the area of Bastra–Sahl al-Mari and the outskirts of Rayhanah, Barri and Shanuh (12 phosphorous shells), causing fires to erupt; the outskirts of the town of Yarun (11 phosphorous shells); the outskirts of the



town of Labbunah (23 phosphorous shells), causing fires to erupt; and the outskirts of the towns of Mays al-Jabal and Blida. The Israelis also fired a rocket at an installation belonging to the municipality of Aytarun and a shell that fell near a Lebanese Army post. Meantime, Israeli air violations, including breaking the sound barrier, were occurring.

On 11 October, the Israelis fired approximately 70 projectiles and tank shells at the towns of Duhayrah, Yarin, Marwahin and Bustan, injuring citizens and damaging several civilian homes, the mosque of Duhayrah, water tanks and Lebanese Army observation towers. Other parts of Lebanese territory were also targeted, including the area between the towns of Ramiyah and Bayt Lif (21 shells), the area between the towns of Aytarun and Mays al-Jabal (17 shells) and the area of Ra's al-Naqurah (25 shells). Burst of gunfire were directed at civilians and over Lebanese Army personnel as they were putting out the resulting fire. A steel tower near point BP2 belonging to the Lebanese Army was destroyed in the Israeli attack.

On 13 October, Israeli aggression was directed against journalists in the town of Alma al-Sha'b, who were directly shelled as they covered the Israeli aggression against Lebanon. One journalist, Isam Abdullah, was killed and a number of journalists and photographers were injured.

As noted above, the Israeli attacks were directed against civilians, including children, and civilian structures, including municipal centres and places of worship, causing fires to erupt. These attacks constitute a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law. In addition, the targeting of posts belonging to the international force poses a threat to the safety of that force.

These Israeli land, air and sea attacks against Lebanese territory constitute a flagrant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon, as well as of Security Council resolutions, including resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#). The aim behind these attacks is to drag Lebanon into a war that it has never sought and will never seek and to stoke the fire that is burning in our region, which is experiencing a serious conflict that threatens to ignite the entire region. Contrary to what was stated in the identical letters from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council dated 7 October 2023 ([S/2023/742](#)) and 8 October 2023 ([S/2023/744](#)), the aforementioned attacks are not consistent with the right to self-defence because they are disproportionate. We therefore hold Israel responsible for any escalation in the region that threatens regional and international peace and security.

Accordingly, we call upon the Security Council to condemn Israel for targeting the international force, violating international laws, including international humanitarian law, and violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon and the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#), to which Lebanon reiterates its full commitment.

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

*(Signed)* Hadi **Hachem**  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.