

The President of the Security Council presents her compliments to the members of the Council and has the honour to transmit herewith, for their information, a copy of a **letter dated 22 February 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Israel** to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, and its enclosure.

22 February 2024



H.E. Mrs. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett
President of the Security Council
United Nations
New York

February 22nd, 2024

Excellency,

Please find attached a letter from H.E. Mr. Israel Katz, Israel's Minister of Foreign Affairs, to the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Erdan', written in a cursive style.

Gilad Erdan
Ambassador of Israel to the United Nations

NV-22FEB-2024-SC



MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

H.E. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett
President of the Security Council
United Nations
New York

Jerusalem, February 22, 2024

Excellency,

It is with utmost urgency that I write you in order to update you of alarming developments concerning the ongoing supply and transfer of arms from Iran to the terrorist organization Hezbollah, in gross violation of UNSCR 1701 (2006) and specifically of the arms embargo stipulated in it (paragraph 15). In some cases, those arms transfers are also in violation of the nonproliferation obligation of missiles by Iran under clause 4 of Annex B of UNSCR 2231 (2015) (that expired on October 18, 2023), as well as a violation of UNSCR 1540 (2004), by proliferating means of delivery prohibited under clause 3. These actions demonstrate Iran's malign intentions to escalate the situation along the Blue Line and show yet another instance of Iran's failure to act in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions.

Over the past months, while Israel is engaged in an ongoing armed conflict on numerous fronts, Iran is accelerating the pace of its weapons transfers to Hezbollah. Iran is doing so by ground, using the porous Syrian-Lebanese border, as well as by air and sea, in violation of UNSCR 1701. These transfers include, among others, components for air defense systems, drones (such as Shahed-101 and Shahed-136) and various types of missiles (such as Mini-Ababil and surface-to-air missiles "358").

Several units inside the Iranian Quds Force are in charge of these transfers such as units 700 (headed by Gal Farsat) and 190 (led by Behnam Shahriyari). These units cooperate with elements in unit 400, such as Hassan Saburinezhad, and with the "Popular Mobilization Forces" and similar militias in Iraq in order to facilitate the passage of the trucks loaded with weapons through border crossings between Iran and Iraq and afterwards into Syria. Inside Syria, there are several officials in charge of receiving the arms transfers and transporting them to their end users in Hezbollah: unit 18000 including unit 18700 (led by "Abu al-Fadel": Slimani Zadegan), the "Assistance Bureau" previously led by Sayed Razi Mousavi, and the unit 4400 – the unit for Cooperation and Military Build-up of Hezbollah.

Several instances of transfers by air and by ground, have been recorded, including:

- October 12, 2023 – through Damascus International Airport and Al-Nayrab Airport;
- October 14, 2023 - through Al-Nayrab Airport;
- October 22, 2023 - through Damascus International Airport and Al-Nayrab Airport;
- October 25, 2023- through Al-Nayrab Airport;
- October 30, 2023 – trucks through Al-Bukamal crossing;
- December 30, 2023 – trucks through Al-Bukamal crossing.



MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

I wish to reiterate that according to UNSCR 1701 (OP15) "all States should take the necessary measures to prevent, by their nationals or from their territories or using flag vessels or aircraft, (a) the sale or supply to any entity or individual in Lebanon of arms and related material of all types, including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, paramilitary equipment, and spare parts for the aforementioned..." (b) the provision to any entity or individual in Lebanon of any technical training or assistance related to the provision, manufacture, maintenance or use of the items listed in subparagraph (a) above; except that these prohibitions shall not apply to arms, related material, training or assistance authorized by the Government of Lebanon or by UNIFIL..."

The ongoing transfers of weapons from Iran to Hezbollah violate the provisions of UNSCR 1701 and amplify the recent escalation along the Blue Line which threatens to further escalate the entire region.

Hezbollah's attacks, coupled with the irresponsible backing and support it receives from its Iranian patrons, could be disastrous for the entire region. Hezbollah is promoting Iranian hostile interests at the expense of the Lebanese people while disregarding Security Council resolutions. Such behavior should be unacceptable to anyone committed to preventing further conflict in our region.

The Security Council has to take a vigorous stance in order to ensure implementation by the parties of UNSCR 1701 in all its provisions. In particular, the Security Council must condemn Hezbollah and Iran in the harshest terms for their destabilizing actions, to call on Iran to abide by UNSCR 1701 and immediately cease its ongoing violations of the arms embargo and further condemn Iran's actions therein, as it continues its attempt to undermine regional stability.

The Security Council must call also on the Government of Lebanon to fully implement Security Council resolutions and abide by its international commitments. These include taking responsibility to prevent attacks and threats from its territory against Israel, cease any transfers of weapons from Iran to Hezbollah and ensure the area between the Blue Line and the Litani river is free of any armed personnel, assets and weapons other than its own.

Israel has warned the international community time and again against Hezbollah and Iran's ongoing efforts to expand Hezbollah's military build-up in violation of UNSCR resolutions including 1559 and 1701.

Israel reiterates its inherent right to take necessary and proportionate measures in conformity with international law, to defend its territory and its citizens from these flagrant violations.

I trust that these flagrant violations will be properly reflected in the future reports on the implementation of 1559 (2004) and 1701 (2006) and included in annex II on the Implementation of the arms embargo in the upcoming 1701 report.

I would be grateful, Excellency, if this communication could be circulated amongst Security Council members.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Israel Katz
Minister of Foreign Affairs