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The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Seventy-fifth year

Identical letters dated 29 June 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from the Lebanese Government, I should like to inform you of the following:

On 27 July 2020, from 1530 hours to 1730 hours, Israel shelled the localities of Kurum and Wadi al-Jawz, east of Kafr Shuba and east of Halta, and Jabal al-Shumays and Jabal al-Saddanah, inside Lebanese territory. The sound of a shell and rounds of gunfire was heard around the Israeli position of Ruwaysat al-Alam (Z-18) in the occupied Shab'a Farms.

Shells landed around the Lebanese Army position on the outskirts of Kafr Shuba; near position 4-13 of the Indian contingent of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL); on a home in the town of Habbariyah; near a pool in the towns of Halta and Hasbayya; and near the French tomb at point SO3 on the outskirts of Kafr Shuba.

The enemy shelling caused fires that destroyed some 100,000 m² of dry scrub and forest land in the areas of Shumays al-Mutill, Burj al-Mutillin, Jabal al-Rus, Ruwaysat al-Alam and Birkat al-Naqqar. A civilian home in the town of Habbariyah was hit and was severely damaged. Enemy reconnaissance aircraft and warplanes circled intensively during the incident.

Overflights of reconnaissance aircraft and warplanes have escalated recently, particularly over the six days preceding the enemy shelling of Lebanese territory. On the day before the act of aggression, overflights reached a record high, on a par with the levels witnessed during the aggression launched by Israel in 2006. That shows that the Israeli attack was pre-planned and premeditated.

The Israeli bombardment of Lebanese territory on 27 July 2020 constitutes an act of aggression against Lebanon and its people, a violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and a breach of international conventions, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949, in that civilian sites were targeted.

Lebanon condemns the Israeli attack on its stability and territorial integrity and on the security of its people. The attack was carried out for domestic Israeli political



purposes, as is clear from the performance put on by the Israeli Head of Government. Such actions are inconsistent with the Israeli authorities' previously stated position that there would be no escalation. As is its habit, Israel continues to distort the facts in order to mislead the members of the Security Council and the international community and to justify its repeated attacks on Lebanon.

The attack on the sovereignty of Lebanon and the ongoing and mounting violations of Lebanese airspace flagrantly contravene the relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#), the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of international law.

Lebanon therefore calls on the Security Council, which has a responsibility to maintain international peace and security, to condemn the Israeli attack on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon and take the necessary action to compel Israel to end its dangerous daily violations of Lebanese sovereignty by land, sea and air, and to fulfil its obligations under Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#).

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) Amal **Mudallali**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
