



15 April 2024

VIA OVERNIGHT DELIVERY SERVICE

HE António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations
United Nations Headquarters
1st Avenue and 46th Street
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

RE: Act of Aggression in Violation of Article 2(4) of the UN Charter by Iran against Israel

Your Excellency:

By way of introduction, the European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ) is a non-profit organisation located in Strasbourg, France, dedicated to protecting human rights and religious freedom in Europe and around the world. The ECLJ also holds Special Consultative Status with the United Nations ECOSOC.

As Israel defends its civilian population and territorial integrity from terrorist organisations in the Gaza Strip, Syria, Yemen, Lebanon, and elsewhere—what former Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett called “an octopus of terror with its head in Iran”—the Iranian regime has now acted on its expressed intent to destroy Israel by directly launching over three hundred drones and cruise and ballistic missiles at Israel.

Iran has erroneously labeled its act of aggression—a violation of Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter—an act of self-defence carried out in response to the alleged Israeli bombing of Iran’s diplomatic building in Syria. Notably, Iran has used Hezbollah and other armed groups in Syria to launch attacks against Israel for years. Since 7 October 2023, with continued Iranian support, these groups have renewed their attacks against Israel. Any military operations Israel carries out in response to attacks by such groups are lawful acts of self-defence.

Unlike Hamas and Iran’s other proxies, Iran is a party to the UN Charter and bound by Article 2(4). After decades of *indirect* attacks on Israel through its proxies, such as Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah, and the Houthi rebels, by attacking Israel *directly*, Iran has openly and clearly violated international law as well as the very purpose of the United Nations, i.e., the maintenance of international peace and security (UN Charter, Article 1(1)). That purpose requires “effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of

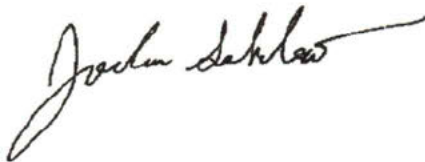
threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression.” (UN Charter, Article 1(1)).

No civilised organisation, including the UN, can ever condone such an open and direct violation of the very purpose of its creation. Given the nature and scale of the Iranian attack, Israel has the absolute right to defend itself and to forcefully respond. However, the UN—mandated with the task of maintaining international peace and security—must also act as required by its Charter. A lack of appropriate action will have disastrous effects not only for the region, but also worldwide, as a larger conflict could become almost inevitable if Iran is not held accountable for its unlawful actions.

Because the risk to the international peace and security has exponentially increased by Iran’s direct violation of the UN Charter and international law, the UN cannot afford to remain silent. Iran’s act of aggression against a UN Member State calls for a serious response from your office.

We, therefore, urge you to do the following: First, publicly and forcefully condemn Iran for its action as a direct and open violation of the UN Charter; Second, publicly confirm the illegality of Iran’s direct and indirect attacks against Israel and the legality of Israel’s inherent right to defend itself; Third, urge the Security Council to take effective measures against Iran consistent with its mandate under Chapters VI and VII of the Charter; and Fourth, take serious effective measures to rein in Iran’s nuclear enrichment program through every means possible, including enforcement of the agreements Iran has signed and through the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Respectfully submitted,



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