



## UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

799 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017-3505

January 8, 2020

Mr. President:

In accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, I wish to report, on behalf of my Government, that the United States has undertaken certain actions in the exercise of its inherent right of self-defense. These actions were in response to an escalating series of armed attacks in recent months by the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iran-supported militias on U.S. forces and interests in the Middle East region, in order to deter the Islamic Republic of Iran from conducting or supporting further attacks against the United States or U.S. interests, and to degrade the Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Qods Force-supported militias' ability to conduct attacks. These actions include an operation on January 2, 2020, against leadership elements of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Qods Force on the territory of Iraq. The United States is prepared to take additional actions in the region as necessary to continue to protect U.S. personnel and interests.

Over the past several months, the United States has been the target of a series of escalating threats and armed attacks by the Islamic Republic of Iran. These have included a threat to the amphibious ship USS BOXER on July 18, 2019, while the ship was conducting a planned inbound transit of the Strait of Hormuz by an Iranian unmanned aerial system, which was previously reported to this Council; as well as an armed attack on June 19, 2019, by an Iranian surface-to-air missile on an unmanned U.S. Navy MQ-4 surveillance aircraft on a routine surveillance mission monitoring the Strait of Hormuz in international airspace. The actions taken by the United States occurred in the context of continuing armed attacks by the Islamic Republic of Iran that have endangered international peace and security, including attacks on commercial vessels off the port of Fujairah and in the Gulf of Oman that threaten freedom of navigation and the security of international commerce, and missile and unmanned aircraft attacks on the territory of Saudi Arabia.

Additionally, Qods Force-backed militias have engaged in a series of attacks against U.S. forces. Qods Force-backed militia groups in Iraq, including Kata'ib Hizballah, have conducted a series of indirect fire attacks targeting bases where U.S. forces in Iraq are located. On December 27, 2019, one such attack resulted in the death of a U.S. Government contractor and injury to four U.S. servicemembers, all of whom were present in Iraq with the consent and at the request of the Iraqi government for counter-ISIS operations notified to this Council in the U.S. letter dated September 23, 2014. In immediate response to this December 27 attack, the United States struck five targets associated with Kata'ib Hizballah in Iraq and Syria on December 29, 2019. Kata'ib Hizballah and other Qods Force-backed militias then participated in an attack on


the United States Embassy in Baghdad on December 31, 2019, which resulted in significant damage to Embassy property.

Since our response, Iran on January 7 launched more than a dozen ballistic missiles against U.S. military and coalition forces in Iraq. It is clear that these missiles were launched from Iran and targeted at least two Iraqi military bases hosting U.S. military and coalition personnel at Al-Assad and Irbil.

The United States wishes to note – as it has done repeatedly over the past years – that we remain committed to a diplomatic resolution. We stand ready to engage without preconditions in serious negotiations with Iran, with the goal of preventing further endangerment of international peace and security or escalation by the Iranian regime.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelly Craft', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ambassador Kelly Craft  
Permanent Representative

His Excellency,  
Ambassador Dang Dinh Quy  
President of the United Nations Security Council  
United Nations, New York.