



799 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY 10017

THE REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO THE
UNITED NATIONS

February 27, 2021

Madam President:

I wish to report, on behalf of my Government, that the United States, in an exercise of its inherent right of self-defense, as reflected in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, has undertaken a targeted military strike in eastern Syria against infrastructure used by Iran-supported non-State militia groups.

In recent weeks, U.S. and Coalition partner forces in Iraq have been the target of an escalating series of threats and attacks by such non-State militia groups. These include a rocket attack near Erbil, Iraq, on February 15 that wounded one U.S. service member, wounded four U.S. contractors, including one critically, and killed one Filipino contractor.

In response to these attacks, the United States has taken military action in eastern Syria against a facility used by Iran-supported non-State militia groups that are responsible for recent attacks against U.S. personnel and are engaged in ongoing planning for future such attacks. This necessary and proportionate action was taken to defend U.S. personnel and to deter further attacks. This military response was conducted together with diplomatic measures, including consultation with Coalition partners.

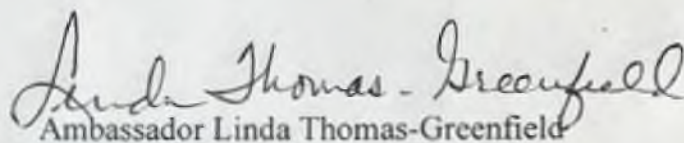
The continued operation of such non-State militia groups in Syria, and in particular the use of Syrian territory by groups engaged in attacks on U.S. forces in Iraq, constitutes a threat to the United States and to the region. As noted in the United States' letter to the Security Council

Her Excellency
Dame Barbara Woodward, DCMG, OBE
President of the Security Council
United Nations,
New York

of September 23, 2014, States must be able to defend themselves, in accordance with the inherent right of self-defense reflected in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, when, as is the case here, the government of the State where the threat is located is unwilling or unable to prevent the use of its territory by non-state militia groups responsible for such attacks.

The United States remains prepared to use necessary and proportionate force in self-defense to respond to future threats to the United States and Coalition forces.

I request that you circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Thomas-Greenfield".

Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield
Representative of the United States
to the United Nations