

The President of the Security Council presents his compliments to the members of the Council and has the honour to transmit herewith, for their information, a copy of a **letter dated 29 June 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations** addressed to the President of the Security Council.

This letter will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/2021/614.

29 June 2021



799 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY 10017

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

June 29, 2021

Dear Mr. President:

I wish to report, on behalf of my Government, that the United States, in the exercise of its inherent right of self-defense, as reflected in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, has undertaken targeted strikes against facilities at two locations in Syria and one location in Iraq near the Iraq-Syria border. These facilities were used by Iran-backed militia groups that have been involved in a series of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) and rocket attacks against U.S. personnel and facilities in Iraq. This letter supplements prior letters provided to this Council, including on February 27, 2021, which further explain the basis for such actions in self-defense against these ongoing attacks.

These militia attacks have escalated in recent months. Recent rocket attacks have included ones on Balad Air Base on April 4, April 18, and May 3, 2021; the Baghdad Diplomatic Support Center near the Baghdad International Airport on May 2, 2021; and Al-Asad Air Base on May 4 and May 24, 2021. Recent UAV attacks have included ones on U.S. facilities in Erbil on April 14, 2021; Al-Asad Air Base on May 8, 2021; Bashur Air Base on May 10, 2021; and U.S. facilities near the Baghdad International Airport on June 9, 2021. These attacks have injured and threatened the lives of U.S. and Coalition personnel. Additional UAV attacks have been attempted.


In response to these attacks, the United States has taken military action in order to protect and defend the safety of our personnel, to degrade and disrupt the ongoing series of attacks

His Excellency
Sven Jürgenson
President of the Security Council
United Nations,
New York

against the United States and our partners, and to deter the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iran-backed militia groups from conducting or supporting further attacks on U.S. personnel or facilities. In support of these aims, these necessary and proportionate actions were directed at facilities used by groups involved in these ongoing attacks for weapons storage, command, logistics, and UAV operations. This military response was taken after non-military options proved inadequate to address the threat, with the aim of deescalating the situation and preventing further attacks. It was conducted together with diplomatic measures, including consultation with Coalition partners.

The United States remains prepared to use necessary and proportionate force in self-defense in response to future threats or attacks.

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


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