



## Security Council

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### **Letter dated 27 March 2023 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I wish to report, on behalf of my Government, that the United States has undertaken precision strikes against facilities in eastern Syria used by militia groups affiliated with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps that have perpetrated an ongoing series of armed attacks against United States personnel and facilities in Iraq and Syria. This action was in response to those armed attacks and was taken in the exercise of the inherent right of the United States to self-defence, as reflected in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. The present letter supplements prior letters provided to the Council, including on 27 February and 29 June 2021 and 26 August 2022, which further explain the basis for such actions in self-defence.

As has been previously reported, militia groups backed by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps have perpetrated a series of attacks against United States personnel and facilities in Syria. On 23 March 2023, a one-way unmanned aerial system attack tragically killed one American contractor supporting the United States military, and wounded six others, including five United States service members. This 23 March attack followed a number of similar prior attacks against United States forces in Syria. These attacks, and the continuing threat of future attacks, have placed the lives of United States and Coalition personnel under ongoing threat.

On 23 March 2023, the United States conducted targeted strikes against facilities in eastern Syria in response to this series of attacks and continuing threats of future attacks. The precision strikes were directed at facilities used by groups affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps for command and control, munitions storage, and other purposes. These necessary and proportionate actions were conducted in a manner intended to establish deterrence, limit the risk of escalation, and avoid civilian casualties. The military action of the United States was taken to protect and defend the safety of its personnel, to degrade and disrupt the ongoing series of attacks against the United States and its partners, and to deter the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iran-backed militia groups from conducting or supporting further attacks on United States personnel and facilities.

This military response was taken after non-military options proved inadequate to address the threat, with the aim of de-escalating the situation and preventing further attacks. As the United States has noted in prior letters to the Security Council, States must be able to defend themselves, in accordance with the inherent right of self-defence 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. This action was conducted together with diplomatic measures.

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

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

*(Signed)* Linda **Thomas-Greenfield**  
Ambassador  
Representative of the United States to the United Nations

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