



Security Council

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Identical letters dated 13 January 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I would like to bring to the attention of the Security Council the recent developments regarding the implementation of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) and the Ceasefire Understandings (27 November) between Israel and Lebanon.

Israel is committed to the implementation of the Ceasefire Understandings with Lebanon. It is important to note that, before the recent hostilities that erupted on 8 October 2023 as a result of unprovoked attacks by Hezbollah from Lebanon, one day after Hamas' massacre, invasion and atrocities on 7 October, Israel had alerted this esteemed Council for years on the severe breaches of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) and the ensuing risks posed to regional security. Israel has sounded the alarm bells in consistent letters and briefings, alerting that Hezbollah is building a massive military infrastructure south of the Litani River and beyond, that advanced weapon systems are being smuggled from Iran into Lebanon in flagrant breach of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#), but unfortunately no action was taken. Along the years, we have urged the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to act according to its mandate and reflect accurately this alarming situation in its reports, to no avail.

We understood now first-hand the severe repercussions of this inaction by the United Nations for Israel, as over 22,000 rockets, over 1,500 anti-tank missiles and over 700 drones were fired by Hezbollah at Israeli communities throughout the war, forcing over 63,000 Israeli civilians to evacuate their homes for more than a year, up until today. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) operation in South Lebanon further exposed the magnitude of the risks, revealing the massive military and terror infrastructure that was built in South Lebanon: this includes over 7,500 anti-tank guided missiles and rocket-propelled grenades, including 350 Kornet missiles, over 870 launchers of anti-tank guided missiles and rocket-propelled grenades, including 24 Kornet launchers, over 4,350 rockets, over 340 military optic devices, over 10,000 explosive devices and improvised explosive devices, numerous Hezbollah military vehicles, over 80 uncrewed aerial vehicles, over 70 anti-aircraft missiles, over 60,000 communication devices, computers and different documents and thousands of other military equipment items, all aimed to attack Israeli civilians, villages and cities.

In addition, the IDF discovered multiple tunnels, more than 1,000 tunnel shafts and subterranean military infrastructure that were erected by Hezbollah over the years, some in proximity of mere metres to UNIFIL positions, that were built to facilitate an invasion by Hezbollah's Radwan force into northern Israel. This situation demands urgent and effective action on the ground to dismantle this illicit



infrastructure, in order to ensure that it does not further jeopardize regional stability and Israel's security.

Israel is committed to the implementation of the Ceasefire Understandings with Lebanon. In order to effectively address the threat posed by Hezbollah's continuous military entrenchment and create an enhanced security situation on its northern border, Israel is cooperating and facilitating the work of the reformulated and enhanced mechanism led by the United States of America that was established following the Ceasefire Understandings between Israel and Lebanon. Some encouraging steps have been taken by the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and the Lebanese government to dismantle some of this illicit military infrastructure of Hezbollah south of the Litani, but unfortunately the pace of action by LAF is insufficient, in the light of the vast military arsenal found on the ground that has been erected during the years. Despite ongoing efforts, LAF currently lacks the capacity to effectively address the full scope of violations on the ground in a timely manner. Hezbollah operatives are still active south of the Litani, and there are still military infrastructures of Hezbollah in this area. We have seen renewed attempts by Hezbollah to rebuild some of these military infrastructures. All of the above constitute breaches of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) as well as of the Ceasefire Understandings between Israel and Lebanon. Israel will not tolerate any violation of the Ceasefire Understandings.

Since the announcement of the Understandings between the parties, we have witnessed hundreds of violations, including 168 prominent violations. These violations include: attempts by Hezbollah to rebuild its military infrastructure; the presence of Hezbollah activists south of the Litani; attempts to smuggle weapons into Lebanon; attempts to transfer funds intended for Hezbollah; and the presence of Hezbollah arms north of the Litani. LAF handled some of these complaints, but in multiple instances, Israel had to take action by itself in order to thwart them.

In addition to the situation in southern Lebanon, Israel is concerned about Hezbollah's ongoing military build-up. While Hezbollah's military capabilities were significantly reduced during the war, they are now attempting to regain strength and rearm with the assistance of Iran and thus remain a serious threat to Israel and to regional stability. To prevent further escalation, it is imperative that the government of Lebanon and the international community focus on curbing the smuggling of weapons, ammunition and financial support through the Syria-Lebanon border and via air and sea routes. Since the Understandings were reached, there have been several attempts to transfer weapons and cash to Hezbollah. These attempts are in violation of resolutions [1701 \(2006\)](#) and [1559 \(2004\)](#), as well as of the Understandings.

Israel is fully committed to the established mechanism and values its ongoing effort. As part of this commitment, the IDF has withdrawn from the al-Khiam area in the eastern sector on 11 December, and in the western sector of southern Lebanon as of 6 January. This gradual withdrawal is the result of a thorough assessment of LAF's actions in these areas. It reflects Israel's interest in working together with the relevant parties for the creation of improved security conditions in the region. Further redeployments in other sectors will be executed in coordination with LAF's implementation of its responsibilities and actions to stabilize the situation on the ground. The existence of terrorist infrastructure in southern Lebanon that continues to threaten Israeli citizens is unacceptable.

Regarding the work of UNIFIL, Israel believes that UNIFIL needs to draw on the lessons learned from the war and work in a much more robust and effective way to implement resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) and the recent ceasefire understandings. The aforementioned Hezbollah force build-up occurred sometimes just metres away from UNIFIL bases and patrols. Despite this, UNIFIL chose to interpret its mandate

leniently, opting not to take all necessary action to ensure that its area of operations is not utilized for hostile activities of any kind. As a result, UNIFIL allowed the severe restriction of its freedom of movement, which Hezbollah exploited to systematically establish terrorist infrastructure on private property. We are concerned that lessons have not been learned and that today we are witnessing yet another refusal by the Force to adapt to Hezbollah's changing modus operandi – similar refusals have persisted over the years since the adoption of resolution 1701 (2006) – as well as a refusal to fully implement its mandate.

In summary, Israel calls on the Security Council to support the important work conducted by the United States-led mechanism and strengthen its capacity, to monitor and expedite LAF's actions on the ground throughout Lebanon so that all violations of the recent Ceasefire Understandings and resolution 1701 (2006) will be addressed in a timely manner, and to insist that all the terrorist infrastructure present in Lebanon is removed and to make sure that any attempt to smuggle arms to Hezbollah is thwarted. The challenge is prominent, but Israel stands ready to continue working with the mechanism, Lebanon and the international community in order to achieve these goals, but we will insist on safeguarding the security of Israel to prevent a similar situation and degradation of the Ceasefire Understandings and resolution 1701 (2006) as it was in the years before 8 October 2023.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Danny **Danon**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations
