



Security Council

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Letter dated 5 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you on the occasion of the thirty-eighth anniversary of the abduction of three members of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Beirut, as well as an Iranian journalist, who were captured in July 1982 during the invasion of Lebanon and the occupation of Beirut by the Israeli regime.

There are various news reports and indications that, after being stopped and detained at the Barbareh checkpoint in the Madfoon area, 40 km north of Beirut, which was then under the occupation of the Israeli regime's army, the said Iranians were immediately handed over to the Israeli military forces. There are various pieces of evidence, including assertions by some of those who were in Israeli prisons and released later or have visited the prisons, suggesting that they are still alive and are in the hands of the Israeli regime. To date, no credible piece of evidence has ever been presented to challenge those assertions.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran underlines, once again, the responsibility of the United Nations in properly addressing this unlawful and criminal act as a flagrant violation of international law, in particular international humanitarian law, and holding the Israeli regime accountable, which after 38 years is yet to be materialized. This, in turn, has emboldened the Israeli regime, which is responsible for the abduction of the said Iranians, to continue, with total impunity, their detention and also avoid any meaningful cooperation for their release. As a result, throughout all these years the said Iranian diplomats and journalist, as well as their families, have been enduring enormous pain and suffering.

Recalling that, in a report in 2008, the then Secretary-General of the United Nations highlighted the need to investigate this case and expressed his readiness to this end (S/2008/715) – an initiative that was welcomed by Iran (see S/2009/91) – and also bearing in mind the relevant efforts and cooperation of the Government of Lebanon, including its request for the Secretary-General's assistance in this regard (see A/66/363-S/2011/581), and more importantly, given the great humanitarian significance of the subject, I would like to request your assistance in shedding light on the status of the abducted Iranian diplomats and journalist, including through supporting the efforts of a fact-finding committee that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has proposed that the International Committee of the Red Cross establish. It is worth noting that, on 11 July 2019, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran requested the assistance of the United Nations in this regard in a meeting with the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon.

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

(Signed) Majid **Takht Ravanchi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

