



## Security Council

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### **Letter dated 17 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I am writing to you with regard to the letter dated 11 January 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2021/28](#)).

By hijacking a regional organization and its meetings, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been engaged in spreading hate and disunity in the region. In fact, the destructive regional policies of that country vis-à-vis the Islamic Republic of Iran and other regional countries during the past four decades have not only wasted numerous opportunities for cooperation to establish a strong, stable and prosperous region, but also paved the way for external Powers to further interfere in the region in pursuance of their hegemonic interests.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its sovereignty over the Iranian islands of Abu Musa, the Greater Tunb and the Lesser Tunb in the Persian Gulf and underlines that the decisions with regard to and measures undertaken in those islands by Iranian officials have always been taken on the basis of the principles of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Therefore, the content of the final communiqué annexed to the aforementioned letter is deemed an interference in Iran's domestic affairs, in violation of the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and is categorically rejected.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has always pursued a policy of friendship and good-neighbourliness towards all its neighbouring countries and, in this context, once again expresses its readiness to engage in bilateral talks with the United Arab Emirates with a view to continuing to strengthen bilateral relations and removing any misunderstanding that may exist between the two countries. Meanwhile, it is obvious that the territorial integrity as well as the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran over the said islands are not negotiable.

Regarding the use of a fake name for the Persian Gulf in the aforesaid document, I would like to stress once again that "Persian Gulf" is the only true geographical designation for the body of water lying between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula, which has been used since the dawn of history. As the institutional memory of all renowned cartographic agencies testifies, this sea area has always been identified as the "Persian Gulf", which must therefore be respected by all.

I also categorically reject the disinformation and series of accusations against the Islamic Republic of Iran raised in the aforementioned final communiqué. Indeed,



Iranophobic campaigns, including the widespread systematic dissemination of disinformation and baseless allegations against Iran, have always been one of the main elements of the regional strategy of Saudi Arabia aimed at distracting attention away from the aggressive and destabilizing policies of that country in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East at large.

The living example of the destructive regional policies of Saudi Arabia is its six years of aggression, death and destruction in Yemen, whereby Saudi Arabia has killed thousands of civilians, including women and children, targeted homes, mosques, hospitals, schools, marketplaces, diplomatic missions and even wedding and funeral ceremonies, used starvation as a method of war, causing the world's worst humanitarian crisis in contemporary history, and prevented the entry of fuel, food, medicine and medical equipment to Yemen, causing an extremely serious health situation there. Those who are responsible for such war crimes in Yemen, which entail their international responsibility, are advised to choose the path of cooperation in place of confrontation. This may start with putting an end to the aggression against Yemen and removing the inhumane blockade, thus providing the ground for a political solution to this conflict. In turn, the Islamic Republic of Iran stands ready to continue providing diplomatic assistance to facilitate a Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned, United Nations-facilitated political process.

Raising unfounded accusations against the defensive ballistic missile programme of Iran is also an attempt to cover up the skyrocketing trend in the military expenditure of Saudi Arabia and its unquenchable appetite for importing deadly arms. However, the relevant figures in this regard are quite telling and irrefutable. For example, Saudi Arabia was the third largest military spender worldwide in 2018 and fifth in 2019. In the past six years, Saudi Arabia has been by far the largest arms importer in the world. It has imported over 12 per cent of all arms exported globally from 2015 to 2019 and 11 per cent in 2020. Additionally, according to the estimate of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Saudi Arabia is "expected to remain among the world's largest arms importers in the coming five years". Such militaristic policies and excessive imports of the most sophisticated weaponry are among the main sources of insecurity and instability in the region.

The real source of regional insecurity is, however, the massive build-up of foreign forces, a large number of which, as well as a number of foreign military installations, are hosted by Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The establishment of a significant number of foreign military bases in the Middle East has turned this region into the highest concentration of foreign military installations in the world.

Likewise, another element that must not be overlooked in considering the threats posed by Saudi Arabia to regional and international peace and security is its long-standing role in supporting international terrorism. It is well documented that terrorist and extremist groups, particularly within the region, are mainly sponsored by the Saudi regime.

The position on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action reflected in the aforementioned final communiqué is not surprising, given the fact that, during the negotiations on the Plan, Saudi Arabia, along with the Israeli regime, did their best to derail the process and, following its conclusion and unanimous endorsement by the Security Council through Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), have missed no opportunities, including through disseminating disinformation, to seriously undermine the full and effective implementation of the Plan as well as that resolution. They still systematically pursue such policies and practices in gross violation of their explicit legal obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, as well as resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).

In conclusion, I must underline that establishing friendly relations and peaceful coexistence with neighbouring countries has always been Iran's top priority, and we will continue to pursue our security, stability and prosperity within the framework of a strong region, which can be materialized only through a genuine dialogue and active and constructive engagement of all regional countries based on mutual respect, inclusivity and basic principles of international law. The Hormuz Peace Endeavour (known as HOPE), launched by the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly (see [A/74/581-S/2019/933](#)), is designed to serve this purpose. This initiative, which has received positive reactions from a number of regional countries so far, can create a proper venue for all States of the Persian Gulf region to work together towards establishing a safer and more stable and prosperous region.

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

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