



Security Council

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Letter dated 10 September 2022 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government and in response to the letter dated 7 September 2022 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council ([A/76/943-S/2022/677](#)), in which my country was falsely accused of a cyberattack and the Republic of Albania declared its unilateral termination of diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran as a result of this unsubstantiated accusation, I would like to bring the following to your attention:

1. The Islamic Republic of Iran categorically rejects and denounces any kind of unwarranted attribution for the alleged cyberattack on Albania's infrastructure; the accusations levelled against it in the letter are completely unfounded and are hereby rejected and condemned.

2. Such fictitious and false claims are based on fabrications and wrong assumptions levelled only for political agendas. Furthermore, given the nature and technical characteristics of cyberspace and the challenges of attribution in the information and communications technology (ICT) environment, Iran warns of the negative consequences of falsified and forged attribution to States.

3. The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates once again its persistent position that cyberspace and the ICT environment must be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and that States must act cooperatively and in full compliance with applicable international law. In view of this, Iran has been actively participating in the relevant intergovernmental negotiation processes under the auspices of the United Nations in the interest of the rights of and establishing adequate responsibilities for all.

4. The Islamic Republic of Iran has long been the primary target and the main victim of cyberattacks against its vital infrastructure, which have disrupted the delivery of public services and governmental functions. Attacks by Stuxnet on Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities and Duqu, as well as recent attacks on industrial infrastructure, such as steel and petrochemical industries, gas stations, as well as municipal public services systems, are a few examples of these cyberattacks. The Israeli regime has repeatedly admitted its involvement in these internationally wrongful acts using the ICT environment, which has received unwavering United States support.

5. The so-called "Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization" (MKO) is a terrorist organization, currently located in Albania, which has martyred numerous Iranian



officials and civilians through bombings and assassinations and since 1981 has claimed the lives of almost 17,000 Iranian citizens. This Israeli-United States-backed terrorist organization is continuously planning and carrying out cyberattacks on other countries' infrastructure, knowingly within Albania territory. MKO has already carried out several cyberterrorist attacks against Iran's critical infrastructure, with the assistance and support of certain States. With the potential technology they have been provided with, they can now carry out different techniques in order to attribute cyberattacks to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

6. While warning against any provocative and unwarranted measure taken under the guise of alleged claims, the Islamic Republic of Iran reserves its inherent right to respond, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, to any threat, attack or wrongful act that targets its interests and critical and civilian infrastructure, decisively and proportionately and whenever it deems necessary.

7. Despite the Republic of Albania's hasty, unwarranted and unilateral decision to sever its diplomatic relations, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in good faith, stands ready to cooperate and engage constructively to clarify the unfounded accusations levelled against Iran.

8. Furthermore, following the unilateral termination of bilateral diplomatic relations by the Albanian Government on 7 September 2022, the police forces of the Republic of Albania breached the obligations under international law and used force to enter Iran's diplomatic missions in Tirana, without Iran's consent. While strongly condemning such unlawful acts, the Islamic Republic of Iran re-emphasizes that such intrusion is a flagrant violation of international law, specifically the principle of inviolability of diplomatic and consular premises, as well as States' obligations under the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, which required all States to take all appropriate steps to protect diplomatic and consular premises from any intrusion or damage and to prevent any disturbance of the peace of these missions or impairment of their dignity and any attack on diplomatic premises, agents and consular officers.

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

(Signed) Amir Saeid **Iravani**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative