



In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

No. 2849059

17 March 2026

Excellency,

Upon instructions from my Government, I write in response to the letter dated 10 March 2026 by the representative of Israel (S/2026/162). Attached thereto is a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Israeli regime containing a series of unfounded accusations against the Islamic Republic of Iran, which constitute yet another attempt by the Israeli regime to distort reality, mislead the Security Council, and justify its own unlawful acts of aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Islamic Republic of Iran categorically rejects all allegations contained in the letter. The claims advanced by the Israeli regime are entirely baseless and constitute a deliberate attempt to invert the facts by portraying the aggressor as the victim, while concealing its own grave violations of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. In this regard, I wish to draw your attention, and that of the members of the Security Council, to the following:

1. Israel's ongoing military aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran, conducted jointly and in coordination with the United States, constitutes a clear act of aggression and a flagrant violation of Article 2(4) of the Charter of the United Nations, which prohibits the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State. The attempt by Israel to justify these unlawful actions under the pretext of so-called "preventive" or "pre-emptive" self-defence, or "to remove an existential threat," has no basis in international law. The inherent right of self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter arises only in response to an armed attack. Political speculation, labels, or manufactured threats cannot serve as a legal justification for unilateral military aggression.

2. The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a sovereign Member State of the United Nations, has exercised, and continues to exercise, its inherent right of self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter in response to ongoing armed attacks and acts of aggression carried out by the Israeli regime and the United States against its territory, sovereignty, and people since 28 February 2026.



Any defensive measures undertaken by the Islamic Republic of Iran are directed solely at legitimate military objectives and are carried out in accordance with the principles of necessity, proportionality, and distinction under international law. Israel's attempt to portray Iran's legitimate defensive measures as unlawful attacks constitutes an obvious effort to obscure its own responsibility for initiating a war of aggression and for escalating tensions in the region.

3. The Foreign Minister of the Israeli regime deliberately omits the grave and ongoing atrocities and serious violations of international humanitarian law committed by Israel and the United States against civilians and civilian infrastructure in the Islamic Republic of Iran. From the outset of this unwarranted and wanton war, densely populated residential areas and essential civilian infrastructure across Iran have been deliberately and indiscriminately targeted by the United States and the Israeli regime. Airports, including civilian facilities and aircraft, schools, hospitals, health-care centres, ambulances, residential buildings, sports facilities, and other civilian infrastructure have been deliberately struck and destroyed, in flagrant violation of international humanitarian law.

4. Even cultural heritage sites have not been spared from these indiscriminate bombardments. Environmental targets have also been struck, causing serious and potentially lasting damage to the natural environment. On 7 March 2026, Israeli strikes on fuel depots and facilities in Tehran released large quantities of hazardous and toxic pollutants into the atmosphere. These attacks have caused severe air pollution and pose serious health risks to civilians—particularly children, women, the elderly, and those with pre-existing medical conditions. Soil and groundwater contamination could inflict long-term, even generational, harm.

5. Since 28 February 2026, the continued military strikes carried out by the United States and the Israeli regime have resulted in the martyrdom of more than 1,348 civilians, including 233 women and 202 children, among them 12 children under the age of five. More than 17,000 civilians have been injured, and 19,734 civilian sites have been destroyed or severely damaged. These attacks have targeted 16,191 residential homes, 1,617 commercial and service centres, 77 medical and pharmaceutical facilities, 65 schools and educational institutions, and 16 Red Crescent buildings, in addition to multiple energy infrastructure facilities. The scale, intensity, and



systematic nature of these attacks against civilians and civilian objects clearly constitute grave violations of international humanitarian law and amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, for which the perpetrators must be held fully accountable.

6. The Israeli letter also repeats politically motivated allegations concerning Iran's peaceful nuclear programme. These claims lack credibility. Iran's nuclear activities have been conducted within the framework of its rights and obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). It is deeply ironic that the Israeli regime—the only entity in the Middle East that possesses nuclear weapons—seeks to accuse others of nuclear ambitions. Israel remains the sole regime in the region that possesses nuclear weapons while refusing to accede to the NPT and rejecting international safeguards on its nuclear facilities. Its undeclared nuclear arsenal and persistent refusal to subject its facilities to IAEA oversight constitute a serious and ongoing threat to regional and international peace and security. For decades, the international community has called for the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. Israel's continued obstruction of this objective remains one of the principal obstacles to achieving sustainable regional security.

7. The Islamic Republic of Iran respects and remains committed to the principle of freedom of navigation under international law. The current situation in the region, including in the Strait of Hormuz, is not the result of Iran's lawful exercise of its inherent right of self-defence. Rather, it is the direct consequence of an unwarranted and large-scale war of aggression launched by the Israeli regime and the United States against Iran, thereby gravely undermining regional peace and security. Furthermore, the allegation contained in the letter claiming that Iran has directed armed attacks in Europe and the Caucasus is entirely baseless and is categorically rejected. Such unfounded accusations are clearly intended to divert the attention of the international community from the root causes of the current tensions in the region—namely, the unwarranted and unlawful war of aggression launched by Israel and the United States against Iran.

8. The Israeli letter contains inflammatory remarks regarding the internal affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Such statements represent a blatant violation of the principle of non-



interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States, a cornerstone of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Israeli regime bears full international responsibility for its acts of aggression and for all violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as for the loss of civilian life and the widespread damage inflicted upon civilian infrastructure therein.

The Security Council must uphold its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and address these egregious violations of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. It must not allow the fundamental principles of the Charter to be eroded by the Israeli regime's attempts to justify and normalise its unlawful use of force and war of aggression against countries in the region.

The Islamic Republic of Iran remains committed to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to the preservation of peace and stability in the region. However, Iran will continue to exercise its inherent and lawful right of self-defence against any act of aggression directed against its sovereignty, territorial integrity, or people.

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

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Amir Saeid Iravani
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

H.E. Mr. António Guterres
Secretary-General
United Nations, New York

Cc:

H.E. Mr. Michael G. Waltz
President of the Security Council
United Nations, New York