



Security Council

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Letter dated 29 December 2023 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I wish to report, on behalf of my Government, that the United States has undertaken measures in the exercise of its inherent right of self-defence, as reflected in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, in response to armed attacks by militia groups affiliated with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps against United States personnel and facilities in Iraq and Syria. The present letter supplements prior letters provided to this Council, including on 27 February 2021, 29 June 2021, 26 August 2022, 27 March 2023, 30 October 2023 and 14 and 28 November 2023.

As previously reported in those prior letters, militia groups affiliated with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps have perpetrated a series of attacks against United States personnel and facilities in Iraq and Syria. In the latest attacks, Kata'ib Hezbollah and affiliated groups attacked United States and coalition forces on 25 December 2023 at the Erbil airbase and injured United States personnel. These attacks have continued to place under grave threat the lives of United States personnel and of other coalition forces operating alongside United States forces.

In response to these attacks and continuing threats of future attacks, on the night of 25 December, the United States conducted targeted strikes against facilities in Iraq used by groups affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps for training, logistics support and other purposes. This necessary and proportionate action was taken in the exercise of the United States' inherent right of self-defence and conducted in a manner to limit the risk of escalation.

The purpose for which the United States has taken military actions against militia groups affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in Syria and Iraq, and the circumstances under which they have been taken, are further described in the letters referenced above. The United States will take further such action as may be necessary in the exercise of its inherent right of self-defence to respond to future attacks or threats of attacks against United States nationals and United States personnel and facilities.

I request that you circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gregory Campbell
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United States Mission to the United Nations

