

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 22 July 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my country's Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 21 July 2022 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, Mr. Fuad Mohammad Hussein, addressed to you regarding the artillery bombardment by Türkiye of a tourist resort in Duhuk Governorate, in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, on Wednesday, 20 July 2022 (see annex).

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

(Signed) Mohammed Hussein **Bahr Aluloom**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 22 July 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Iraq consistently strives to abide by the rules and principles of international law and good neighbourliness and to strengthen international cooperation. Nonetheless, its neighbour, Türkiye, has been taking hostile unilateral measures that violate the sovereignty of Iraq by threatening the lives of Iraqi civilians. We should like to draw your attention to the fact that, at 1350 hours on Wednesday, 20 July 2022, Turkish forces committed a clear and blatant aggression against the territory and sovereignty of Iraq and the lives and security of its citizens when they used artillery to bombard a resort located in the village of Barakh, Darkar subdistrict, Zakhu district, Dahuk Governorate in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. The bombardment resulted in the death of 9 civilians and the wounding of 33 unarmed civilians (a list of their names is annexed hereto). In addition, the attack caused material damage to the infrastructure of the tourist resort and other losses and is expected to bring about material losses in the future because of the disruption of tourism. Iraq condemns in the strongest terms the brutal aggression that Türkiye committed against innocent civilians and civilian objects. This aggression constitutes a breach of and a threat to international peace and security because it is a shameless military aggression. It also constitutes a violation of the provisions of international law, the principles of good neighbourliness and the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and the objectives for which the Organization was established.

This hostile action by Türkiye is further evidence of its intransigence and the fact that it pays no heed to the demands that Iraq has made for it to halt its military violations. The Government of Iraq has addressed 296 official communications to its Turkish counterpart to protest these violations, which total 22,742 from 2018 to date and have resulted in dozens of Iraqi civilian and military casualties. In addition, the Government of Iraq has demanded that Turkish troops withdraw from Iraqi territory. For several years, Iraq has documented these claims in multiple identical letters addressed to the President of the Security Council and the Secretary-General that were issued as Security Council documents, the most recent of which were the identical letters dated 23 June 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council ([S/2022/500](#)). Türkiye persists in its hostile approach and continues to violate the principles of international law. Such conduct constitutes a repudiation of the principles of good neighbourliness and international agreements, undermines the soundness of relations and joint cooperation, and violates human rights principles.

We warn of the implications that this illegal and highly worrying escalation has for joint international counter-terrorism efforts. It jeopardizes the security of the entire region because it undermines Iraqi, regional and international counter-terrorism efforts. Terrorist groups might have the opportunity to reorganize in areas where the security situation is fragile as a result of political and security instability, which will be exacerbated if Türkiye persists in its illegal conduct. In view of the seriousness of the situation and given that Türkiye persists in committing such violations, my country's Government submits an urgent complaint to the Security Council and calls upon it to fulfil its role under the Charter and hold an emergency meeting to discuss this aggression by Türkiye. It also calls upon the Council to form a committee to follow up on the situation between Iraq and Türkiye and to add an agenda item on these repeated Turkish attacks. In addition, Iraq calls for this aggression, which is a threat to international peace and security, to be condemned decisively and in the strongest terms, and for the perpetrators of this heinous act against civilians to be held accountable.

Iraq has chosen to refer this matter to the Security Council after considering and exhausting all available means to reach an amicable solution to the crisis caused by the acts of aggression committed by Türkiye. Iraq reaffirms that it reserves its sovereign and natural right, in accordance with article 51 of the Charter, to take all necessary measures to protect its security and the safety of its citizens from any attacks. The Iraqi Ministerial Council for National Security has instructed our national forces to take all necessary measures to defend themselves and to take resolute action to prevent such acts of aggression.

In that connection, and to reaffirm the strong desire of Iraq to demonstrate its goodwill and its position regarding the consolidation of regional and international security and stability, my country's Government has formed a national committee headed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to investigate the circumstances of this aggression. At the same time, in another demonstration of the genuine political disposition of Iraq, we ask the Security Council to form an independent international team to investigate this act of aggression and demand that Türkiye pay compensation for the human and material losses suffered by Iraq. The Security Council must use all means available to ensure that Türkiye is obliged to withdraw, without delay, Turkish troops from Iraqi territory to the recognized international border between the two countries, and not to repeat those violations, which harm international relations and seriously jeopardize regional and international security.

Iraq rejects the pretexts that Türkiye has offered repeatedly. Those pretexts should not be used as a means of evading responsibility under international law and international humanitarian law for threatening the lives of Iraqi citizens and attacking the territory of Iraq. Moreover, Iraq calls upon Türkiye to address its internal affairs, in particular the issue of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, inside its territory. This is a Turkish problem that should not be exported to Iraqi territory. Iraq calls upon the Security Council to urge Türkiye to abide by the relevant Council resolutions on preventing and facilitating the passage of foreign terrorist fighters into Iraqi territory and to respect the principles of good neighbourliness, ensure sound relations based on mutual respect and refrain from endangering the security of Iraq, its citizens and its economy.

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

(Signed) Fuad Mohammad **Hussein**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Iraq