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**The rule of law at the national and international levels**

## **Identical letters dated 21 April 2026 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

On instructions from the Government of Lebanon, I should like to draw your attention to the letter dated 10 March 2026 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/80/669-S/2026/153](#)) notifying you that, on 8 March 2026, Israel had assassinated four Iranian diplomats in the Ramada Hotel in Beirut.

I should also like to draw your attention to two other Iranian letters concerning this subject. The first is the letter dated 4 March 2026 from the Permanent Representative of Iran ([S/2026/125](#)), in which he refers to threats made by the spokesperson of the Israeli military on 3 March 2026 to target official representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Lebanon, and notes that they were given an ultimatum to leave Lebanese territory within 24 hours, and that they would be attacked in the event of non-compliance. The second letter ([A/80/667-S/2026/194](#)), dated 17 March 2026, concerns the assassination of two other Iranian diplomats on 8 and 13 March 2026.

In that connection, the Government of Lebanon reaffirms its commitment to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, of 1973, in particular their provisions concerning the protection of diplomatic officials and missions.

Although the Government of Lebanon condemns the targeting of Iranian diplomats in Lebanese territory, it nonetheless wishes to correct certain inaccuracies that are contained in the letter from the Permanent Representative of Iran ([A/80/669-S/2026/153](#)) and to highlight numerous actions and acts by the Iranian Embassy in Beirut that are in clear violation of international norms and conventions and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961. Those actions and acts are as follows:

- In the Iranian letter ([A/80/669-S/2026/153](#)), it is stated that the four Iranian diplomats were transferred from their official residence to the Ramada Hotel in response to Israeli threats to target them, and out of concern for their safety and



security. It is also stated that the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran “duly notified and coordinated this relocation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lebanon in its capacity as the receiving State under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961”.

- In fact, the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Beirut did not notify the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lebanon of the relocation of its four diplomats from their official residence to the Ramada Hotel, nor is it true that it coordinated this move with the Ministry. What the Iranian mission has conveyed to the United Nations in New York regarding this matter is contrary to what the Iranian Embassy reported to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beirut. On 16 March 2026, the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran sent note No. 2847711 to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, in which it confirmed that it had neither contacted the Ministry nor informed it of the relocation of its diplomats to the hotel. The following is stated, verbatim, in that note: “In light of the Zionist entity’s attacks on Lebanon and its public threats against the Iranian Embassy and diplomats, the four ‘martyred’ Iranian diplomats were transferred from their official residence to the hotel owing to the sensitive security conditions and concerns regarding their health and safety. The opportunity did not arise to contact the esteemed Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates and inform it”.
- In the letter from the Iranian Mission to the United Nations ([A/80/667-S/2026/194](#)), the six diplomats were identified as follows: (a) Reza Mousavi (Third Counsellor); (b) Majid Hassani Kondsar (Second Secretary); (c) Alireza Bi-Azar (Third Secretary); (d) Hossein Ahmadlou (Diplomatic Attaché); (e) Ahmad Rasouli (assigned to the mission); and (f) Amir Moradi (assigned to the mission). The names of the first four diplomats and their diplomatic ranks are mentioned in the letter. With regard to the fifth and sixth individuals, however, who were identified as diplomats and described as “assigned to the mission,” the Iranian Embassy in Beirut did not inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lebanon of their presence in the mission or of their diplomatic status in accordance with established procedure.
- The failure of the Iranian Embassy in Beirut to duly notify the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lebanon of the presence of Messrs. Rasouli and Moradi in the mission and of their diplomatic status as its representatives constitutes a clear violation of the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961, in particular paragraph 1 (a) of article 10, pursuant to which diplomatic missions are required to notify the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the host State “of the appointment of members of the mission, their arrival and final departure or of the termination of their functions with the mission”.
- Following the announcement that the two Iranian diplomats whose appointments to the Embassy had not been communicated to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were being targeted, the Ministry promptly communicated with the Iranian Embassy in Beirut by means of note No. 1589/2, dated 9 March 2026, in which it requested that it be provided, as soon as possible, with an updated list of the names of Iranian diplomats who were still working at the Embassy and that the diplomatic cards of those who had departed be returned. The Iranian Embassy did not respond to that request. Accordingly, the Ministry sent a reminder to the Embassy by means of note No. 54/*alif ‘ayn*, dated 13 March 2026. However, the Iranian Embassy did not comply with that request, although it stated in its note No. 2847711, dated 16 March 2026, that “the requested list is being prepared and would be provided to the esteemed Ministry as soon as it

is ready”. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates has not yet received this list.

- What is alarming about this matter is that various media outlets, including Iranian ones, subsequently reported that the six Iranian diplomats who had been killed were, in fact, members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. These media outlets published their names and photos of them in military uniform, along with their insignias and ranks in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. What is even more alarming is the fact that the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps has repeatedly announced, through official statements, that it is carrying out joint operations with Hizbullah from Lebanese territory. For example, on 11 March 2026, it announced that it had conducted its first joint and coordinated attack with Hizbullah since the outbreak of the war, as part of what it described as the fortieth wave of its operations. In addition, it stated that a combination of missiles and drones had been used in that operation, in which more than 50 sites in Israel had been targeted.
- This Iranian conduct constitutes direct and blatant interference in the internal affairs of Lebanon and drags the country into a war it did not choose to become involved in. It also constitutes blatant defiance of the decisions of the Government of Lebanon, in particular the decision that it issued on 2 March 2026, in which it prohibited security and military activities by Hizbullah and rejected any military or security operations launched from Lebanese territory outside the framework of its legitimate institutions. That decision which was transmitted to the United Nations and issued as document [A/80/660-S/2026/113](#), dated 2 March 2026. In addition, that conduct constitutes defiance of the decision adopted by the Government of Lebanon on 5 March 2026, in which it instructed the military and security agencies to prevent any security or military activity or operation by members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in Lebanon. That decision was also transmitted to the United Nations and issued as document [A/80/684-S/2026/223](#), dated 24 March 2026.
- This Iranian conduct, namely, deploying Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps personnel in Lebanon under the guise of diplomatic activity, violates the principle of good faith, which must prevail among States, and also violates the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961, the first paragraph of article 41 of which provides that diplomats must “respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State. They also have a duty not to interfere in the internal affairs of that State”. In addition, such conduct constitutes a clear violation of paragraph 3 of that same article, which provides that “[t]he premises of the mission must not be used in any manner incompatible with the functions of the mission as laid down in the present Convention or by other rules of general international law or by any special agreements in force between the sending and the receiving State”.
- In addition to the above, the newly appointed Iranian ambassador to Lebanon, Mohammad Reza Raouf Sheibani, who has not yet submitted a copy of his credentials to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, made statements to Lebanese media outlets in which he set forth a number of positions that constitute blatant interference in the sovereign affairs of the Lebanese State, as well an unacceptable assessment of its decisions regarding the management of its internal affairs, including its decision dated 2 March 2026 to ban security and military activities by Hizbullah, which was issued as document [A/80/660-S/2026/113](#). He warned against “distorting the image of the resistance and attempting to undermine the legitimacy of its decisions,” and he described the security and military operations of Hizbullah as being an “outstanding

performance that took the enemy by surprise”. He also noted that Iran “would do everything in its power to link any ceasefire agreement to a similar agreement in Lebanon”.

- The actions of the Iranian ambassador-designate to Lebanon constituted a clear violation of the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, in particular article 13, which provides that an ambassador will not be considered as having taken up his functions until he has presented a copy of his credentials, and article 41, which requires that the laws of the receiving State be respected and establishes a duty not to interfere in its internal affairs. Those actions by the Iranian ambassador, as described above, prompted the Lebanese Government to revoke the *agrément* that it had granted him and to declare him *persona non grata*. In addition, the Government requested that he leave Lebanese territory by 29 March 2026, pursuant to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates note No. 60/*alif* ‘*ayn* of 24 March 2026.
- The deadline set by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lebanon has passed, yet the Iranian ambassador-designate in Beirut has refused to comply with the Ministry’s request that he leave Lebanon. In fact, on 30 March 2026, the spokesperson of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Esmail Baghaei, said: “Our ambassador will continue to serve as Iran’s ambassador in Beirut and will remain there”. That stance constitutes blatant defiance of the decision of the Government of Lebanon and a violation of its sovereignty. It also in line with Iran’s ongoing breach of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961, in particular article 9, which provide that if the receiving State declares any diplomat of the sending State’s mission to be *persona non grata*, the latter must “recall the person concerned or terminate his functions”, and article 43 (b), which provides that the function of a diplomatic agent comes to an end “on notification by the receiving State to the sending State that [...] it refuses to recognize the diplomatic agent as a member of the mission”.
- All of the aforementioned Iranian actions, which violate all international norms and rules, and its entanglement of Lebanon in devastating wars contrary to the will of its constitutional institutions entitles Lebanon to demand that Iran be held internationally accountable for and bear the consequences of its repeated violations of its international obligations. It is clear that Iranian State agencies, including the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, have committed unlawful acts in blatant defiance of the decisions of the Government of Lebanon. Moreover, since 2 March 2026, they have dragged Lebanon into a devastating war that has resulted in the death and injury of thousands of Lebanese, the displacement of more than 1 million citizens, incalculable material losses and the destruction of dozens of villages and towns and has led Israel to occupy parts of Lebanese territory and establish security belts.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 84, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmad **Arafa**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative