

**Security Council**

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**Identical letters dated 28 December 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

I am writing to you with regard to the identical letters dated 19 November from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council ([S/2015/912](#)).

This letter contains false accusations against Israel with regard to violations of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). In some of the instances described in the letter, the factual record has been distorted, and the description does not accurately depict the circumstances, while other incidents as described do not constitute violations of the resolution.

With regard to the alleged sea violations, the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) does not include delineation of the maritime boundary, and, therefore, all claims of violations of so-called maritime boundaries are beyond the scope of the UNIFIL mandate.

I would also like to note that throughout the course of the letter, the sovereign territory of Israel is referred to as “occupied Palestinian territory”. This is clearly indicative of the broader problem of Lebanon’s continuing refusal to acknowledge the existence of the State of Israel.

In order to set the record straight, please see the detailed response of Israel to the claims alleged by Lebanon, which is attached in the annex to the present letter (see annex).

Israel is extremely concerned about the situation in southern Lebanon and the continuing violations of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) by the Government of Lebanon. Breaches of Israel’s sovereignty occur almost daily, and the armed presence of Hezbollah in southern Lebanon goes unchallenged by the Government of Lebanon. This fact is rarely, if at all, documented in reports issued by the United Nations.

Just last week, three rockets were fired at Israel from southern Lebanon, from south of the Litani River. This violation was denounced by the Secretary-General and the Force Commander of UNIFIL. I would like to refer to my letter to you dated 20 December ([S/2015/1003](#)), in which I described in greater detail this attack and the threat posed to Israel from Hezbollah.



Israel will not accept any violation of its sovereignty and will take all necessary measures to protect its citizens. Israel holds the Government of Lebanon fully responsible for any attack coming from its territory and for the full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006).

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

(*Signed*) Danny **Danon**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

**Annex to the identical letters dated 28 December 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

**Response of Israel to the alleged accusations**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Nature of alleged violation</i>	<i>Comment/reference</i>
1 October 2015	0830	Pointing a Samsung machine gun mounted on a Humvee vehicle towards a Lebanese Army patrol near the border and in the Al-Naqoura area	The soldiers used the telescope in order to scan the area, not in order to point weapons at the Lebanese Army. This incident does not constitute a violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) or the Blue Line.
	0900		
	0945	An Israeli Defence Forces soldier made an “obscene gesture” at a Lebanese Army patrol	This incident was addressed within the Israeli Defence Forces through disciplinary measures. The Israeli Defence Forces instructs its soldiers to avoid any misconduct along the border in order to prevent unnecessary friction. With that being said, this misconduct does not constitute a violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006).
7 October 2015	1430	An Israeli Defence Forces patrol and some 60 civilians arrived at a location near Birkat al-Naqqar, where they conducted a commemoration ceremony	This incident does not qualify as a violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) or the Blue Line.
12 October 2015	2039	An Israeli Defence Forces soldier crossed the technical fence opposite the town of Sarda for a few minutes before returning to Israeli territory	Israeli Defence Forces arrived at the technical fence during a routine activity, but the fence was not crossed by any member of the force.
14 October 2015	2120	An Israeli Defence Forces patrol arrived opposite Abbasiyah Gate, and one soldier crossed the Gate for five minutes before returning into Israel	Following a thorough investigation, it was determined that the Israeli Defence Forces soldier had not crossed the Blue Line.
15 October 2015	1835, 1910	An Israeli Defence Forces patrol arrived at the vicinity of Abbasiyah and inspected the technical fence with a searchlight	This incident does not qualify as a violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) or the Blue Line.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Nature of alleged violation</i>	<i>Comment/reference</i>
17 October 2015	1325	An Israeli Defence Forces patrol violated the line of withdrawal near position 34-4 of the Indian contingent of UNIFIL in an attempt to abduct the goatherd Hassan Abdul'al. Four goats were led into Israeli territory	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Lebanese goatherd and his goats crossed the Blue Line into Israeli territory and violated the sovereignty of Israel.</li> <li>2. A number of goats were captured by the Israeli Defence Forces and returned to Lebanon on the same day.</li> <li>3. The Blue line was not crossed by Israeli forces.</li> </ol>
19 October 2015	0900	Twelve Israeli Defence Forces soldiers and a D9 bulldozer crossed the technical fence without crossing the Blue Line, in order to clear trees between points B38-1 and B39	This incident does not qualify as a violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) or the Blue Line. In addition, it should be stated that Israel reserves its right to act within the territories south of the Blue Line, even if located beyond the technical fence.
24 October 2015	1100	Two Israeli Defence Forces vehicles arrived opposite the Lebanese Army checkpoint of Udaysah. Nine soldiers stepped out of the vehicle and pointed their weapons towards Lebanese territory	This incident does not qualify as a violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) or the Blue Line.
	1250	An explosion on the Israeli side caused a fire that spread into Lebanese territory. An Israeli Defence Forces patrol arrived and extinguished the fire	This incident does not qualify as a violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) or the Blue Line. It should be noted that similar incidents of fires have occurred on the Lebanese side and spread onto Israeli territory, yet, unlike Lebanon, Israel did not report those cases as violations.
26 October 2015	0900	An Israeli Defence Forces patrol arrived opposite the Lebanese Army checkpoint of Udaysah. Five soldiers stepped out and carried out maintenance work on the technical fence without crossing it. During the time, a machine gun mounted on one of the vehicles was pointed towards Lebanese territory	This incident does not qualify as a violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) or the Blue Line.
27 October 2015	1330 and 1500	Erecting earthen berms near an Israeli Defence Forces position in Har Dov	This incident does not qualify as a violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) or the Blue Line.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Nature of alleged violation</i>	<i>Comment/reference</i>
28 October 2015	0550	Israeli Defence Forces soldiers in Ghajar shot and injured an unidentified person who was attempting to flee	The alleged incident described is an incident within the sovereign territory of Israel and does not qualify as a violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) or the Blue Line.
29 October 2015	1015	An Israeli Defence Forces patrol shouted at a Lebanese civilian who was picking olives to stay away and threw a smoke grenade within Israeli territory	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This incident is in fact a Lebanese violation of the Blue Line, one incident in a series of unauthorized crossings by Lebanese farmers onto Israeli territory in order to pick olives.</li> <li>2. The smoke grenade did not cross the Blue Line, and therefore this incident does not qualify as a violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) or the Blue Line.</li> </ol>
30 October 2015	1350	An Israeli patrol crossed the Blue Line at about 20 metres in Har Dov area, in order to abduct a Lebanese shepherd	Following a thorough examination, Israeli Defence Forces had not crossed the Blue Line.
31 October 2015	1530	A member of the Israeli Defence Forces threw four smoke grenades next to the technical fence in Abbasiyah	The smoke grenades did not cross the Blue Line, and therefore this incident does not qualify as a violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) or the Blue Line.