



Security Council

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Identical letters dated 7 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Security Council

Further to my identical letters dated 2 January 2018 (S/2018/6) and my identical letters dated 5 January 2018 (S/2018/23), and on instructions from my Government, I should like to draw your attention to a maritime violation that was committed by the United Arab Emirates.

At 0730 hours on Friday, 19 January 2018, the Qatar maritime surveillance system detected a United Arab Emirates boat being lowered from a military vessel. That boat then entered the exclusive economic zone of Qatar and intercepted Qatari fishing vessel No. 17074, on-board which were seven fishermen and the captain, all of whom are Indian nationals. At gunpoint, the United Arab Emirates boat forced the fishing vessel to leave the exclusive economic zone of Qatar and enter the exclusive economic zone of the United Arab Emirates. The surveillance system also detected a series of flashes that emanated from the United Arab Emirates boat towards the Qatari fishing vessel, meaning that there had been unilateral gunfire. Following are the details of the incident.

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Coordinates</i>
19 January 2018 0730 hours	A United Arab Emirates boat is observed at a distance of 1.3 nautical miles (2.4 km) from the exclusive economic zone of Qatar.	25° 15 390 N 052° 48 040 E
19 January 2018 0733 hours	The United Arab Emirates boat, moving at a speed of approximately 40 nautical miles per hour, enters the exclusive economic zone of Qatar and heads towards the Qatari fishing vessel, which was 1.2 nautical miles (2.2 km) inside that zone. Aboard the fishing vessel were its captain and seven fishermen, all of whom are Indian nationals.	25° 16 020 N 052° 46 380 E
19 January 2018 0735 hours	The United Arab Emirates boat intercepts the Qatari fishing vessel and forces it at gunpoint to leave the exclusive economic zone of Qatar and enter the exclusive economic zone of the United Arab Emirates (Das Island).	25° 16 150 N 052° 45 000 E
19 January 2018 0747 hours	The Qatari fishing vessel and the United Arab Emirates boat leave the exclusive economic zone of Qatar and head towards the exclusive economic zone of the United Arab Emirates.	25° 15 370 N 052° 46 150 E



This incident is clearly a crime of abduction and constitutes a grave precedent and a violation of international norms. Qatar strongly denounces and condemns the conduct of the United Arab Emirates. Such conduct violates international law and the relevant international agreements and covenants. Qatar holds the United Arab Emirates fully responsible for the safety and security of the fishing vessel's crew, particularly given that their fate remains unknown, and calls upon the international community to put pressure on the United Arab Emirates to comply with and respect international principles and agreements, release the fishing vessel's crew and return the vessel and any seized property. Qatar has notified the International Maritime Organization that the naval forces of the United Arab Emirates have crossed the maritime boundary of Qatar without authorization.

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

(Signed) Alya Ahmed Saif **Al-Thani**
Permanent Representative
