



17TH December 2012

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon

Secretary-General of the United Nations

New York

Dear Mr Secretary-General

We the undersigned are writing to express our deep concerns and opposition to the cruel economic sanctions imposed on Iran by the United States and the European Union, and the US-Israeli threats of military attack against it. According to a recent report in Foreign Policy magazine, "Israel and the US are considering a joint surgical strike targeting Iranian uranium enrichment facilities".

President Obama has warned Iran that the current talks on trying to resolve the conflict surrounding Iran's nuclear energy programme is the last chance to avoid attack. He has also repeatedly stated in the past that he leaves "no options off the table" which would mean including the use of military force with nuclear weapons. Israel has threatened to attack Iran even without informing its patron, the US.

Senator Lindsey Graham recently stated that he is working on a new Congressional resolution to pledge US troops, money, and political support for Israel should Prime Minister Netanyahu launch a preventive war on Iran. The resolution, if passed, would encourage Israel to commit aggression against Iran in violation of the UN Charter and international law, and draw the US into a regional war with grave consequences for the world.

In addition to threats of war and economic sanctions, the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and Israel's Mossad, in collusion with Iranian and Baluchi terrorist organisations, have been involved in criminal activities in Iran to destabilise the lawful government. To this end, they have been carrying out assassination of scientists and military personnel; sabotage of power networks; and cyber warfare.

The sanctions and the threats of war are justified by their proponents as necessary to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons. The allegation that Iran is

developing nuclear weapons has been proved to be baseless and untrue. Reports by intelligence agencies of the US and Israel have categorically stated that Iran is not developing nuclear weapons, and has not taken a decision to do so. The IAEA, in its latest report, has confirmed that there has been no diversion of enriched uranium for weaponisation.

Israel's violation of international law and rogue behaviour is nothing new. On 19 June 1981, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution which strongly condemned the military attack by Israel on the Iraqi nuclear research centre "in clear violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international conduct." The Council was concerned that the premeditated Israeli air attacks "could at any time explode the situation in the area, with grave consequences for the vital interests of all States." It called upon "Israel urgently to place its nuclear facilities under the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency." Israel has refused to comply with the Council's call and yet no action has been taken against it.

The US and the West stand accused of hypocrisy and practising double standard in their so-called efforts to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons. While imposing cruel sanctions, and threatening war, on Iran, they have done nothing to make Israel accountable for its nuclear arsenal. Israel has surreptitiously developed, and now possesses, more than 200 nuclear weapons with sophisticated delivery systems in the air, sea and land. Unlike Iran it is not a party to the NPT and subject to inspection by the IAEA. Also, from 1948, Israel has a notorious record of aggression against its neighbours.

Therefore, what is the reason behind the sanctions and the threats of war which are clearly in violation of the UN Charter and international law? It is to bring about regime change that would protect US-Israeli geo-political and economic interests. Last February, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin criticised the West for seeking regime change in Iran under the pretext of stopping the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Threats of war and imposition of draconian sanctions on a sovereign nation to bring about regime change are crimes under international law. Article 2 of the UN Charter provides that "all members shall refrain... from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state".

A US-Israeli attack on Iran would amount to aggression against a sovereign nation, a member of the UN. The Nuremberg Tribunal set up to try Nazi war criminals after World War II warned that waging an aggressive war is "essentially an evil thing... To initiate a war of aggression... is not only an international crime; it is the supreme international crime differing only from other war crimes in that it contains within itself the accumulated evil of the whole."

A military attack on Iran would have calamitous consequences not only for Iran and the Gulf region but for the whole world. Russia is moving its troops to Iran's northern border in anticipation of a US-Israeli attack. Deputy Russian Prime Minister

DimitryRogozin warned: "Iran is our neighbour. If Iran is involved in any military action, it's a direct threat to our security."

The cruel sanctions imposed on over 70 million Iranians are already causing grave health problems. FatemehHashemi, head of Iran's Charity Foundation for Special Diseases, which cares for the needs of patients with life-threatening diseases, wrote to you: "As a human activist, I call on humanity's conscience to pay attention to the fact that, despite the claims by those that have imposed the sanctions, their pressure is having its destructive effect on the life and health of the people." Unfortunately her desperate appeal on behalf of Iranians with serious health problems has fallen on deaf years.

Given the gravity of the illegal threats and sanctions against Iran and its people, we are very disappointed with your failure to uphold the Charter and take action to stop them. According to the UN website, you, as Secretary General, ought to be a symbol of United Nations ideals and a spokesman for the interests of the world's peoples, in particular the poor and vulnerable among them. You would be failing in your duty if you did not uphold the values and moral authority of the United Nations, and speak and act for peace, even at the risk of offending some States.

Your Excellency, we appeal to you to uphold the ideals, values and moral authority of the United Nations and take urgent action to lift the sanctions, and prevent the US-Israeli threats of war, against Iran. We urge you to issue a public statement calling for the sanctions to be lifted and the threats of military attack on Iran to cease. You should also bring the issues, which pose a threat to global peace before the Security Council and the UN General Assembly for taking action to resolve them.

On behalf of the UJN network,

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