

**UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

July 16, 2008

The United States Mission to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General to the United Nations, and with reference to the Secretary General's Note No. LA/COD/4 dated 29 February 2008 concerning General Assembly resolution 61/31, entitled "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives," has the honor to report several examples of incidents where the safety and security of diplomats and diplomatic premises were violated:

On the evening of February 21, 2008, at 17:11 hours, Serbian police charged with protecting the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade withdrew from the front of the Embassy and allowed a group of rioters to attack the Embassy. After the police withdrew, the number of rioters increased, and the attackers intruded into the Embassy. The police only returned at 19:33 hours, after the rioters had caused considerable damage to the Embassy's windows, facade, buildings and equipment. Fire Department personnel eventually arrived at 19:44 hours and extinguished the fire at 21:30 hours. The Embassy sustained approximately USD 540,000 in damages in these attacks, and one of the rioters died in the attack.

DIPLOMATIC NOTE

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On June 5, five U.S. diplomats and two locally employed staff of the U.S. Embassy, accompanied at times by diplomats from the United Kingdom, were illegally detained, harassed and threatened by government forces and mob elements at a roadblock outside the town of Mazowe, Zimbabwe. The U.S. diplomats were on a pre-election assessment trip in Mashonaland, Central Province. Zimbabwe police detained two vehicles carrying U.S. Embassy staff for more than five hours. They also deflated the tires of one of the two U.S. Embassy vehicles and took other measures to prohibit the U.S. diplomats and Embassy staff from moving. During the day-long incident, the lives of the travelers were also threatened by mobs. All Embassy staff were ultimately released after U.S. Ambassador McGee intervened with senior Zimbabwe officials.

At approximately 11:00 hours on July 9, there was an attack on the guard post outside the entrance to the U.S. Consulate General in Istanbul. One police officer repelling the attackers died at the scene, and two other officers died at a local hospital of injuries they sustained in the attack. Two other police officers were also injured in the attack. The United States commends the heroism of the Turkish officers and notes that the local authorities responded rapidly and effectively to the attack, and are actively investigating the incident.

The United States Mission to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

EKW