

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and with reference to the Secretary General's note LA/COD/4 of 9 April 2010 has the honour to submit the following report pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/126 of 11 December 2008 on the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

The United Kingdom would like to report two serious incidents which have affected its Embassy in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On 30 December 2008, around 100 Basij militia armed with sticks and small petrol bombs stormed the Embassy's residential compound in Gulhak in the north of Tehran causing a significant amount of damage. The Basij militia is a volunteer force under the command of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. The Iranian security forces did not arrive in sufficient numbers to control the incident until around 40 minutes later, by which time one Embassy property was ransacked and a computer hard drive and personal papers stolen; a number of other properties and an Embassy vehicle were also damaged; one British family with a one-year old baby were forced to barricade themselves in their house until they could be safely escorted off the compound; and a large hostile crowd of several hundred Basij also gathered outside the compound. At our request, the security forces photographed and videoed events for evidential purposes; but since then the UK has received no information from the Iranian authorities about the investigation into the incident or any charges that might have been brought against the perpetrators, nor has the stolen property been returned.

On 27 June 2009, all nine local employees - Iranian nationals - in the Political/Economic Section of the British Embassy in Tehran were detained and interrogated by the Iranian authorities on fallacious grounds that they had been fomenting unrest on behalf of the United Kingdom following the disputed presidential elections of 12 June 2009. This was plainly an orchestrated act to intimidate and seriously interfere with the functions of the British Embassy. One of the nine was sentenced to four years in prison for espionage following appearance in a mass, televised show-trial. Three others were required to deposit bail to secure their release from detention. The remaining members of staff were not charged, but none of the nine have been allowed to return to work at the British Embassy. Despite

frequent requests to the Iranian authorities by the British Embassy in Tehran to resolve these cases, no progress has been made, including on the appeal by the individual who was sentenced to four years in prison.

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom would be grateful if these two incidents could be included in his report to the sixty fifth session of the General Assembly.

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.



United Kingdom Mission
to the United Nations
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