



**In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful**

No. 608

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to his Note Verbale LA/COD/4 dated 29 February 2008, has the honour to submit the following information pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/31 of 4 December 2006 entitled "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives":

**A) Australia**

In 2007 and early 2008, several incidents occurred against Iranian diplomats and diplomatic premises in Canberra (Australia) which violated their safety and security. On 24 July 2007, there was a robbery attack against the residence of the counselor of the Embassy as a result of which some valuables and money were stolen. On 22 November 2007, unknown individuals broke into the residence of the counselor of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Canberra and messed up everything. On 30 December 2007, stones and other hard objects were thrown at the Ambassador's residential building which caused damages to the premises, including breaking window glasses. On 29 January 2008, there was an attempted kidnapping of the child of the counselor of the Embassy. In response to the Embassy's demand that necessary measures should be taken to investigate the attempted kidnapping case and prosecute the perpetrator(s), the Australian relevant officials asked for certain actions on the part of the counselor's family that amounted to waiving their diplomatic immunity which Iran could not accept. The perpetrators in all above incidents remain unidentified. It is noteworthy that despite numerous incidents taken place and threats made against diplomatic premises (Embassy and Ambassador's residential building), no measure has thus far been taken to post permanent guards for the two premises.

**B) Greece**

On 8 March 2008, a vehicle belonging to the counselor of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy in Athens (Greece) was attacked in Polytechnic University Campus by unknown perpetrators. According to eye witness accounts, five masked perpetrators attacked the car (BMW, 2007) and smashed it completely. The Embassy has requested the relevant Government authorities of the host country to take necessary measures for investigating the incident and prosecuting the perpetrators as well as compensating the damages.

**C) Iraq**

Since early 2006 till now there have occurred many attacks and incidents against Iranian diplomatic and consular missions and representatives in Iraq, a short summary of the most important of which is outlined as follows:



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- 1) The most serious of all was the attack orchestrated and launched by the United States military forces in Iraq. On 11 January 2007, the United States military forces stormed the Consulate General of Islamic Republic of Iran in the northern Iraqi city of Erbil and occupied its premises. They abducted five consular officers, confiscated computers and official documents and damaged the Consulate General premises. The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations – New York informed the Secretary General of this insolent unlawful act by its letter dated 19 January 2007 (circulated as document A/61/706-S/2007/28). This was followed up by subsequent letters dated 4 April 2007 and 13 June 2007 (circulated as document A/61/955-S/2007/355). The abductees have been subject to horrific physical and mental torture. Two of them were released months later. Their account of inhuman behavior toward them was shocking. Despite the repeated calls for their release, the three abductees are still in detention.
- 2) This was not the only act of violence against Iranian diplomatic and consular missions and representatives by the foreign forces in Iraq. On 7 April and 8 May 2007, the premises of the Consulate General of Islamic Republic of Iran in Basra were attacked by the British military forces as a result of which the walls and protection facilities as well as vehicles belonging to the Consulate General were extensively damaged. On 13 June 2007, three Iranian diplomats were detained by American troops in Baghdad. They were interrogated for 18 hours and their money amounting to \$ 2000 was confiscated. Moreover, in August 2007, three Iranian diplomats were detained at the entrance of the Embassy of Islamic Republic of Iran in Baghdad by American troops. One of the three diplomats was released 24 hours later and the other diplomats were held in detention for four days. On 29 August 2007, an Iranian diplomat together with 6 members of the delegation of Iranian Ministry of Electricity who were in Iraq on an official visit, were detained by American troops. They were released after several hours. On 11 January 2008, four staff members of the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Basra together with four security guards of the Consulate General were detained by foreign forces. On 13 April 2008, two staff members of the Consulate General of Islamic Republic of Iran in Basra were detained by the Iraqi and American troops on Baghdad - Basra road. On 2 July 2008, British and American troops launched measures interfering with the movement of the staff members of the Consulate General of Islamic Republic of Iran in Basra and their families, particularly at Shalamcheh border. Such upsetting measures have continued to this date.
- 3) On 10 June 2006, the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Karbala was attacked by a mob calling themselves as "Hassani". They threw stones and smashed windows of the premises. The attackers climbed over the walls and entered the second floor of the building. They caused damages to the building, pulled down the Iranian flag and threatened to continue their attacks against the Consulate General in the future. Members of the same group attacked the Consulate General of Islamic Republic of Iran in Basra on 13 June 2006. On 31 October 2006, the premises of the Consulate General of Islamic Republic of Iran in Basra were targeted by rockets and mortars.



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- 4) On 3 February 2007, Mr. Jalal Sharafi, the Second Secretary of Iranian Embassy in Baghdad was kidnapped by armed gunmen wearing the Iraqi commando uniforms. He was held for 58 days in horrific conditions where he was subjected to severe physical and mental persecution, including beating, drilling his legs and mock executions. The diplomat managed to escape from his dungeon on 3 April 2007.
- 5) On 21 September 2007, a bombed car parked at the entrance of the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Basra was discovered. On 20 January 2008, a vehicle belonging to the Consulate General of Islamic Republic of Iran in Basra was attacked during the clashes of a group called "Yamani." On 23 February 2008, the building of the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Basra came under attack by rocket propelled grenades. On 25 February 2008, the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Basra was the target of shooting by unknown persons. On 8 April 2008, the Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Basra accompanied by a few staff members and their guards were attacked while driving on Baghdad-Basra road. One staff member died and others were seriously injured, and the two cars were completely destroyed.
- 6) On 15 May 2008, four staff members of Iranian Embassy in Baghdad, including two diplomats, were seriously wounded in an armed attack that targeted their motorcade while heading to al-Kadhemiya for a visit. We have yet to receive information from Iraqi authorities about the identity of the perpetrators and the measures taken to punish them as well as measures to compensate the victims.
- 7) It is noteworthy that the Islamic Republic of Iran has not yet been informed of the results of the investigations to identify and punish the perpetrator(s) of assassination of Mr. Khalil Naeimi, the First secretary of the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad, who was shot in the head while in his car near the Embassy on 15 April 2004.

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 17 October 2008

Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York