

Note No: 033/2012

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the Secretary-General's Note No. LA/COD/4 dated 22 December 2011. Note No. LA/COD/4 annexed a Note from the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations dated 30 November 2011 concerning the 29 November attack on the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Tehran. A copy of both Notes is annexed for ease of reference.

In accordance with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 65/30, entitled "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives", I have the honour to inform you of the following.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomes the expressions of regret, and reiteration of Iran's full commitment to take all appropriate measures to protect diplomatic premises and staff, conveyed in the Note from the Islamic Republic of Iran, but nevertheless considers it to be an inadequate explanation of the events of 29 November 2011. In response to the Note from the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland wishes to provide the following corrections and clarifications, and requests that this Note be circulated to all Members of the United Nations.

- The Note from the Islamic Republic of Iran claims that protestors gathered in front of the United Kingdom Embassy in a "peaceful protest". On the contrary, it was clear from its outset that the demonstration was not peaceful. Incendiary devices and rocks were thrown at the premises, and the crowd chanted "Death to the English". The event was preceded by numerous inflammatory and inaccurate statements by senior Iranian politicians, including unfounded allegations of nefarious activity by the United Kingdom Embassy, which were given full coverage by the Iranian state media. Attempts by the United Kingdom Embassy to rebut these allegations were ignored.
- The Note from the Islamic Republic of Iran claims that "despite all preventive measures taken by the police, unfortunately a group of protesters stormed the premises". This is inaccurate. There was a small police presence in comparison with previous demonstrations, despite United Kingdom Embassy requests to the Iranian authorities to ensure adequate protection following a series of telephone threats. Those police who were there appeared to do very little to discourage the demonstrators. This inadequate policing response meant that the demonstrators were able to enter the premises easily. This is all confirmed by footage of the event.
- The Note from the Islamic Republic of Iran states that "The premises was evacuated later on with the deployment of additional anti-riot police forces". In total, the attack on the main United Kingdom Embassy compound lasted around six hours. In a part of Tehran well within reach of numerous police stations, and despite the Embassy's frequent requests for police reinforcements during the attack, no such reinforcements arrived for around five hours after the initial breach occurred. This allowed several waves of rioters to gain access to the premises, and to loot and destroy United Kingdom Embassy and personal property. The Embassy building was set on fire while diplomats

were still inside it. Some police officers were also observed entering homes and removing items. When it was clear that the compound was empty of rioters, United Kingdom diplomats were forcibly prevented by police from leaving the area where they had taken refuge.

- The Note from the Islamic Republic of Iran states "A number of protesters entered the [northern Residential] compound after a fierce clash with the security guards and caused damage to the property". Two to three hundred people coordinated to attack the Gulhak residential compound simultaneously with the attack on the main Embassy compound at Ferdowsi. There was no "clash" with either Embassy security guards or police. This group held United Kingdom diplomats captive for three hours, looted homes of personal possessions and valuables stole computers and documents and destroyed other personal items. The police arrived after three hours. Every home, on both compounds, was looted and vandalised.
- The Note from the Islamic Republic of Iran states that "Measures have already been taken by the judicial authorities to thoroughly investigate the incidents and identify the culprits". The United Kingdom welcomes this. The United Kingdom assumes these investigations are well in hand, looks forward to the presentation of the findings, taking the events as described above into account and invites the Islamic Republic of Iran to publish the findings of the report. The United Kingdom trusts that the report will also give a clear answer as to why many of the perpetrators of these attacks were members of the Basij, a state-affiliated militia.

The attached photographs demonstrate the damage done to both Embassy and private property.

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



United Kingdom Mission  
to the United Nations  
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