



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the United Nations
New York

Note No. 234/2018

Note Verbale

The Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat and has the honour, with reference to its Note Verbale of 9 March 2018 – LA/COD/4 – to report three incidents in which the Federal Republic of Germany was involved as a sending State and which constituted serious violations of the protection and security of consular and diplomatic missions or of representatives thereof:

1. Attack on the German Consulate General in Mazar-e-Sharif/Afghanistan

In the night from 10 to 11 November 2016, there was a complex attack against the German Consulate General in Mazar-e-Sharif: following an explosion at the perimeter wall, armed perpetrators stormed into the Consulate General, engaged in an exchange of fire with its security officers and attempted to cause the greatest possible harm to those present. After about one hour, the NATO forces alarmed by the Consulate General intervened and evacuated the consular staff to Camp Marmal in the course of the night. The premises used by the German Consulate General were destroyed to such an extent during the attack that the property had to be abandoned.

Despite several warnings, the receiving State failed to adequately protect the local consular post commensurate with the threat level and in accordance with Article 31 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 24 April 1963. Furthermore, in the wake of the attack the receiving State failed to prevent the

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compound from being looted while the police stood by and the subsequent sale of the staff's private property. The Federal Republic of Germany knows of the conviction of one perpetrator following the investigation instigated by the receiving State. As far as we know, the perpetrator has the right to appeal.

2. Attack on the German Embassy in Kabul/Afghanistan

Shortly before 8.30 a.m. on 31 May 2017, there was a car bomb attack directly in front of the German Embassy in Kabul. None of the Embassy staff were killed. However, two Afghan staff members belonging to its security company as well as six Afghan police officers deployed to protect the Embassy died. The Embassy compound was largely destroyed in the attack and the reconstruction will be expensive and time-consuming. Staff members of the neighbouring embassies of other states were killed or injured and embassy buildings were damaged. All in all, more than 160 people lost their lives.

Despite various warnings, the receiving State failed to effectively carry out security measures at the Ring of Steel checkpoints and thus provide adequate protection commensurate with the threat level of the diplomatic missions in the Green Zone in accordance with Article 22 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 18 April 1961. The Federal Republic of Germany has not been informed of the outcome of the investigation instigated by the receiving State after the attack.

The following incident must also be mentioned:

3. Attack on the official vehicle of the Deputy Head of Mission at the German Embassy in Monrovia/Liberia

Around 10:10 p.m. on 14 January 2018, an official vehicle belonging to the German Embassy in Monrovia, which was conveying the Deputy Head of Mission, was initially followed and then rammed from the side by a police vehicle on the return journey from Robertsfield International Airport. The Embassy vehicle was damaged. After the police vehicle failed to stop, the Embassy vehicle was able to catch up with it and the driver was subsequently confronted. It materialised that the driver was an armed police officer who was evidently conveying a private passenger in the official car. After the Liberian

authorities had been informed of the incident, the Embassy received an apology and an assurance that it would be investigated.

By wilfully ramming the mission vehicle and risking injury to the Deputy Head of Mission, the police officer violated the immunity of the mission's vehicles guaranteed in Article 22 (3) of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations as well as the principle of the inviolability of diplomats (Article 29 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations). The Federal Republic of Germany has not been informed of the outcome of the investigation instigated by the receiving State after the attack.

The Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 11 April 2018

