

*Translated from French*

## **Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations**

The Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations ... in reference to its note verbale No. LA/COD/4 of 7 January 2019, has the honour to transmit herewith the information that Belgium would like to see included in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution 73/205 of 20 December 2018, entitled “Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives”.

The input of Belgium includes the following:

- List of all incidents against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives in Belgium reported to the Protocol Directorate;
- Measures taken by Belgium, as host State, to ensure the security of missions; and
- List of incidents against diplomatic missions and consular posts of Belgium abroad.

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New York, 13 May 2020

## Sixth Committee

### Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

#### Implementation of paragraphs 11, 13 and 14 of General Assembly resolution 73/205 of 20 December 2018

#### Input of the Kingdom of Belgium

In response to the note verbale of the Secretary-General dated 7 January 2019 concerning the consideration of measures to enhance the protection and security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, the Kingdom of Belgium has the honour to convey the following information:

#### A. Serious violations of the protection and security and safety of diplomatic missions and consular posts in Belgium

The list below shows the incidents reported to the Protocol Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where foreign diplomatic missions and consular posts were targeted, as well as the measures taken.

In 2018, the following incidents were reported:

- 03.01.2018 - Russia - Attempted burglary at a diplomat's residence
- 03.01.2018 - Russia - Burglary at a diplomat's residence
- 05.01.2018 - Iran - Act of vandalism: Two PKK demonstrators entered the Embassy compound illegally to lower the Iranian flag.
- 09.01.2018 - Slovakia - Attempted burglary at a diplomat's residence
- 25 and 30.01.2018 - Algeria - Attempted burglary at the Ambassador's residence and threats and insults over the telephone against the Ambassador: The competent authorities made an assessment and concluded that the incident would be a crime under ordinary law rather than a terrorism-related crime. The Crisis Centre of the Ministry of the Interior was informed in order to take the appropriate security measures in light of the circumstances. Patrols and police surveillance were stepped up.
- 5.03.2018 - Turkey - Acts of vandalism: Demonstrators threw red paint at the walls and windows of the Embassy. A report was prepared. The Crisis Centre was informed so that police patrols could be notified of the incident and that the appropriate security measures could be taken. An offer was made to the Turkish Embassy for reimbursement of the costs of cleaning up the facade.
- 26.03. and 5.04.2018 - Turkey - Photographs of the Embassy taken by an individual: The Crisis Centre was informed.

- 06.04.2018 - Turkey - Photographs of the Embassy taken by an individual: The Crisis Centre was informed.
- Shortly before 30.05 - Poland - Acts of vandalism: Damage caused to the external windows of the Permanent Mission of Poland to the European Union and of the Permanent Representative's residence
- 01.06.2018 - Korea - Theft in the basement of a diplomat's residence
- 11.06.2018 - Russia – Acts of vandalism: Balls were thrown at the Embassy compound during a demonstration by Amnesty International
- 11.08.2018 - Guinea - Robbery at the Embassy
- 16.09.2018 - Turkey - Acts of vandalism: A vehicle approached the Ambassador's residence at high speed and knocked over cones placed the residence. The Crisis Centre was informed.
- 23.09.2018 - Ireland - Sexual aggression against the child of a diplomat: The police opened an investigation and one individual was arrested. The family received care from social services.
- 27 and 30.09.2018 - Kuwait - Burglary at a diplomat's residence: A complaint was filed, and the Crisis Centre was informed.
- 30.09.2018 - Spain - Acts of vandalism: Graffiti in Catalan on the walls of the Embassy. Measures were enhanced in view of the national holiday.
- 9-10.10.2018 - China - Burglary at a diplomat's residence
- 13.10.2018 - Kuwait - Burglary at a diplomat's residence: The Crisis Centre was informed, and a complaint was filed.
- 20.10.2018 - Senegal - Burglary at a diplomat's residence
- 10.11.2018 - Italy - Act of vandalism: The tires of a diplomat's vehicle, with a CD licence plate, were punctured with knives. A complaint was filed.
- 13.11.2018 - Finland - Burglary at the property next to the Ambassador's residence: The lock on the gate leading to the garden of the residence was broken to facilitate entry to the neighbouring property through the garden.
- 22.11.2018 - Bangladesh - Illegal entry: An individual entered the Embassy compound to take photographs. The Crisis Centre was informed.
- 26.11.2018 - Czech Republic - Burglary at a diplomat's residence: A complaint was filed.
- 28.11.2018 - Dominican Republic - Burglary at the Ambassador's residence
- 01.12.2018 - Belarus - Violent break-in and theft at the Ambassador's residence: The Crisis Centre was notified.
- 01.12.2018 - Togo - Acts of vandalism: Sticky lime was splashed on the walls, doors, and floor of the Embassy.
- 18.12.2018 - Bulgaria - Theft at a diplomat's residence

In 2019, the following incidents were reported:

- 11.01.2019 - Togo - Act of vandalism: An individual threw bags of excrement in the Embassy. A complaint was filed.

- 26.01.2019 - Cameroon - Illegal entry and acts of vandalism: A dozen people attempted to enter the Embassy compound following the re-election of Paul Biya the previous weekend, damaging the main entrance door. The frequency of police patrols was increased.
- 27.01.2019 - Turkey - Acts of vandalism: Some twenty people passed within the vicinity of the Embassy and the words “Biji Kurdistant” were written on the wall of the Embassy facade. The Crisis Centre was informed.
- 28-29.01.2019 - Cameroon: Three waves of attacks against the Embassy compound were thwarted by the police. The Crisis Centre was informed and a request for an assessment was sent to the competent authorities.
- January 2019 - Korea - Burglary in the basement of a diplomat’s residence: The Crisis Centre was informed.
- 01.02.2019 - Poland - Theft at a diplomat’s residence
- 21.02.2019 - Venezuela - Acts of vandalism: A sign was hung on the outside gate of the Embassy to “welcome the new Ambassador Mary Ponte” and to recommend that the current Ambassador “pack his things”. A complaint was filed.
- February 2019 - Korea - Robbery at the Ambassador’s residence: The Crisis Centre was informed.
- 10-11.03.2019 - Italy - Acts of vandalism: Insulting inscription against a personality of the Italian Government on the perimeter wall of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the European Union
- 18.03.2019 - Mexico - Theft of a diplomat’s backpack
- 13-14.04.2019 – Denmark - Robbery at the residence of the Permanent Representative of Denmark to NATO
- 29-30.04.2019 - Belarus - Theft in the basement of the Ambassador’s residence
- 26.05.2019 - United Arab Emirates: Three people holding a poster showed up at the entrance of the Embassy entrance to place a chain on the door.
- 08.07.2019 – Lebanon - Theft of the Ambassador’s briefcase
- 12.08.2019 - Norway - Burglary at the residence of a diplomat of the Permanent Mission of Norway to NATO
- 29.08.2019 - Gambia - Theft of an Embassy vehicle
- 4 and 5.09.2019 - Brazil - Acts of vandalism: Graffiti on the main facade of the Embassy.
- 5.09.2019 - Democratic Republic of the Congo: Two individuals took down the flags flying at the Embassy entrance.
- 06.09.2019 - Japan - Act of vandalism: Graffiti on the wall of the Ambassador’s residence tagged
- 06.09.2019 - Qatar - Act of vandalism: Threatening inscription in blue chalk on the external pillars of the Embassy
- 24.10.2019 - Chile - Act of vandalism: Graffiti on the front door and garages of the Embassy
- 10.11.2019 - Serbia - Act of vandalism: Graffiti on the façade of the Embassy

- 22.11.2019 - Turkey - Act of vandalism: Graffiti on the front facade of the Mission of Turkey to the European Union. The Crisis Centre was informed.
- 28.11.2019 - Turkey - Act of vandalism: Posters stuck on the Embassy facade with the inscription “Stop army R-Turkey#rise Up4Rojava”. The Crisis Centre was informed.
- 01.12.2019 - Poland - Theft at a diplomat’s residence
- 20.12.2019 - United States - Attempted illegal entry: Scaling of the Embassy’s perimeter wall by an individual
- 25.12.2019 - Ukraine - Attempted break-in at the offices of the Mission of Ukraine to the European Union

During the first few months of 2020, the following incidents were reported:

- 07.01.2020 - Japan - Burglary at the private residence of a diplomat of the Mission of Japan to the European Union: A complaint was filed, and the Crisis Centre was informed.
- 07.01.2020 - Poland - Theft of the vehicle of a diplomat of the Permanent Mission of Poland to the European Union: A complaint was filed, and the Crisis Centre was informed.
- 09.01.2020 - Ukraine - Attempted break-in at the offices of the Mission of Ukraine to the European Union. The Crisis Centre was informed.
- 20.01.2020 - Turkey - Act of vandalism: Attempt to set fire to objects in front of the Embassy. The Crisis Centre was informed.
- 13.02.2020 - Saudi Arabia - Act of vandalism: Two Embassy vehicles were vandalized (windows broken). A complaint was filed, and the Crisis Centre was informed.
- 24.02.2020 - Ireland - Burglary at the private residence of the Deputy Permanent Representative to the European Union: A complaint was filed, and the Crisis Centre was informed.
- 03.03.2020 - Sweden - Robbery against the son of a diplomat of the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the European Union: A complaint was filed, and the Crisis Centre was informed.
- 11.03.2020 - Serbia - Burglary at the Ambassador’s residence and theft of valuables: A complaint was filed, and the Crisis Centre was informed.
- 11.03.2020 - Saudi Arabia - Act of vandalism: Golf balls thrown at the Embassy facade during a protest by Amnesty International. The Crisis Centre was informed.
- 14.03.2020 - Croatia - Theft of diplomat’s vehicle: A complaint was filed, and the Crisis Centre was informed.
- 25.03.2020 - NATO - Theft of an official’s vehicle: A complaint was filed, and the Crisis Centre was informed.
- 03.04.2020 - Turkey - Acts of vandalism: A sign was abandoned at the Mission of Turkey to the European Union. A sign was inserted into the gate of the Consulate

General in Antwerp, and two bags of paint were thrown at the front facade, causing damage. The Crisis Centre was informed.

- 14-15.04.2020 - Guinea - Burglary: Burglars penetrated the Embassy compound, broke doors, destroyed equipment and spread white powder in the offices.

## **B. Measures needed or already taken to enhance the protection and security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives as well as missions and representatives with diplomatic status to international intergovernmental organization**

### **(a) General measures**

Security arrangements for diplomatic missions and consular posts are based on the threat analysis conducted by the Threat Analysis Coordination Agency. The Agency determines a threat level for every diplomatic mission in Belgium. The threat level allows the Crisis Centre of the Ministry of the Interior to ask the police to make specific security arrangements adapted to each mission. The Crisis Centre holds a monthly meeting attended by the Protocol Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to review of the security arrangements for the various diplomatic missions in Belgium.

### **(b) Specific measures**

Diplomatic missions and consular posts that have a security problem contact the Protocol Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Each specific problem is therefore referred by the Protocol Division to the competent security service, and is addressed accordingly.

## **C. Serious violations of the protection and security and safety of Belgian diplomatic missions and consular posts**

The list below shows the incidents that occurred during the period in question against Belgian diplomatic missions and consular posts:

- 1.12.2018 - France: Illegal entry into the Embassy compound and property damage (Paris) during Yellow Vest demonstrations at the Place CDG-Etoile and in the surrounding streets.
- 15.01.2019 - Jamaica: Impact of a stray bullet on the Embassy facade
- End of January 2019 - Chile: Burglary at the Honorary Consulate in Concepción
- 6.11.2019 - South Africa: Theft of an Embassy service vehicle
- 2.07.2019 - Tanzania: Armed attack against a diplomat and his partner
- 14.08.2019 - Panama City: Theft of the handbag of a visitor at the Embassy
- 18 and 19.01.2020 - Lebanon: Damage to the facade and the entrance of the Embassy building in Beirut following the burning of demonstrators' tents on the sidewalk in front of the building.