



**Permanent Mission of Finland to the
United Nations**

New York

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NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Legal Counsel and to the Secretary General of the United Nations and, with reference to note LA/COD/4 of 4 January 2023, has the honour to inform the following incidents pursuant to paragraphs 11, 13 and 14 of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 77/108 of 7 December 2022 entitled "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

Between 3 May 2022 and 24 April 2024, the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Helsinki was subjected to several acts that are now under criminal investigation by the police. Some of the perpetrators have been identified and/or apprehended and questioned, but it has not been possible to identify all suspects. The varying offence designations include violation of privacy relating to public premises, false report of a danger, criminal damage, violation of the Waste Act, and defamation.

One person is suspected of having trespassed on the territory of the Embassy of Ukraine in Helsinki by climbing over the gates on 16 May 2023. The Embassy staff saw the person in the territory and removed them from there. The Embassy has no claims against the person. The police reported the suspected offence as an aggravated violation of privacy relating to public premises. The suspect of the offence was apprehended by the police in front of the Embassy. When questioned, the suspect admitted the act.

One person is suspected of having attempted aggravated extortion by demanding by letter that the Embassy of Israel should pay the person EUR 200,000 by a given time limit, or failing that, a bomb would explode in the Embassy on 19 July 2023. The suspected perpetrator was caught and questioned as a suspect of the offence. It was concluded that the person was unable to carry out the threats. The same person had also sent a letter to the Russian Embassy.

An unknown perpetrator is suspected of having committed criminal damage by spray-painting the text "PALESTINE" in red letters on the front doors of the block where the Embassy of Israel in Helsinki is located. The suspect was not caught in the area or through criminal investigation later on. The entrance to the block was also smeared with artificial blood or similar red dye. The suspected perpetrators were not caught at the scene after the commission of the criminal damage. Nor have the police managed to identify them during the criminal investigation.

Between 29 September 2022 and 7 January 2023, the wall of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Helsinki was smeared with paint or other substances eight times. The incidents were reported to the police as commission of criminal damage, and one team of the police is investigating all the incidents. The police also installed technical surveillance devices in the area to identify the perpetrators. The Embassy has sent claims for damages to the police. The perpetrators were not identified or apprehended at the scene. The investigation is still partly going on.

On 27 and 28 September 2022, an employee of the Iranian Embassy reported that in an open Facebook group, a group of people had discussed their intention to attack the Resalat Islamic Community and threatened to burn it. They had also threatened the staff of the Iranian Embassy in their postings. After considering the matter from different perspectives and meeting with the injured party, the police decided not to open a criminal investigation.

Several persons are suspected of having committed criminal damage by throwing a colour bomb and balloons filled with dye on the wall of the Embassy of Türkiye in Helsinki on 25 October 2023. The police have not yet completed the criminal investigation. Several persons have been questioned as suspects of criminal damage, and a technical investigation has also been conducted.

During the spring of 2023, two persons were constantly demonstrating against China in the immediate vicinity of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Helsinki without informing the police in advance. The police identified and interviewed the persons and removed them from the front of the Embassy several times.

On 28 July 2022, the police received a report that two paragliders had crossed the territory of the Embassy of the United States of America in Helsinki. The police recorded a report of an aviation violation. The police did not catch the paragliders and thus could not identify them.

Since spring 2022, the Helsinki Police have, on their own initiative, intensified their supervision of the embassy area in southern Helsinki (especially the Embassy of the Russian Federation). In addition to the police patrol that normally protects the Embassies, one or more additional patrols have been deployed in the area. During demonstrations,

the police have intensified their monitoring of public order and, in particular, the security of foreign missions.

Since autumn 2023, the police have also increased surveillance in the vicinity of the Israeli Embassy, in particular. By a decision made for an indefinite period, the police have been patrolling in front of the Embassy during office hours.

The Finnish authorities wish to assure the Secretary-General that they take very seriously their duty to take all appropriate action to protect the premises of diplomatic missions against any intrusion or damage, and to prevent any attack on the person of the staff members of the missions. Finland also wishes to emphasize the importance of co-operation on security matters, not only at the international but also at the national level, between the missions and the competent local authorities.

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

New York, 15 May 2024