



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

NOV 13 2015

The Honorable
Bob Corker, Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of October 14 regarding Iran's October 10 ballistic missile launch. The United States has long been concerned about Iran's ballistic missile program. We regard any violation of a UN Security Council resolution as a serious matter. The United States has already mounted a response to this launch, and we intend to continue doing so.

First, we condemned this recent ballistic missile launch and confirmed publicly that, as the missile was inherently capable of delivering a nuclear weapon, the launch was a clear violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1929 (2010). In a meeting of the UN Security Council on October 21, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power highlighted this violation and condemned the launch as destabilizing. Other Security Council members joined the U.S. in condemning the launch as a violation, highlighting the widespread international concern with this act. These actions have demonstrated to Iran that there will be political costs for such provocative, destabilizing behavior.

Additionally, on October 21 the United States, together with France, Germany, and the United Kingdom, submitted a joint report on the launch to the UN Security Council's Iran Sanctions Committee. We anticipate that the Committee will discuss our report on the launch in a meeting this month. We have called on the Committee, with the support of the independent UN Panel of Experts, to review this matter quickly and recommend appropriate action. We also intend to press the Committee to engage Iran directly, including to express concern and to ask Iran to explain its behavior.

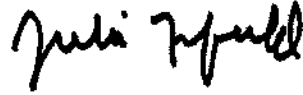
Further, beyond the UN Security Council, we have a range of unilateral and multilateral tools available to counter Iran's missile-related activities. On multiple past occasions we have imposed penalties under domestic authorities on foreign persons and entities engaged in proliferation-related activities. We are reviewing the facts from the recent launch to determine whether such action is warranted in this case. In the meantime, we continue to combat the proliferation of missile technology and equipment by working with the more than 100 countries around the world that have endorsed the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), as well as by urging all countries to implement and enforce missile-related export controls, such as those established by the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).

Full and robust enforcement of all relevant UN measures is critical. We will continue to press the Security Council to address and respond to any violations by Iran. While all of the provisions of the previous UN Security Council resolutions on Iran's nuclear program remain in effect, we will insist these resolutions be enforced and that the Committee and the Panel continue to carry out their respective mandates. We have repeatedly underscored this point to all relevant international actors.

When the provisions of these UN Security Council resolutions terminate, UN Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015) provides for ongoing binding measures that will be in place for many years with respect to certain nuclear-, ballistic missile- and conventional arms-related activities, as well as targeted sanctions designations. These measures will come into effect on "Implementation Day," the date on which the IAEA verifies that Iran has taken its initial nuclear steps under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). We are fully committed to enforcement of these provisions for as long as they are in effect. We will address any Iranian action in violation of these measures through UN channels and, as appropriate, unilateral action. With regard to future launches, the new ballistic missile-related provisions in Resolution 2231 are not identical to those found in the previous UN Security Council resolutions. Nevertheless, based on what we know concerning this specific missile launch, this launch would be inconsistent with Resolution 2231 and would be a matter of Council concern.

We hope this information is useful. We are committed to continuing our close consultations with Congress on Iran. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julia Frifield". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julia Frifield
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs