



PERMANENT MISSION OF FINLAND  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK

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The Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations presents her compliments to His Excellency the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to the note LA/COD/4 of 29 February 2008, has the honour to inform of the following incidents pursuant to paragraphs 10 and 12 of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 61/31 of 4 December 2006 entitled "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives".

On 17 August 2006 an unknown person tried to break into the premises of the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania but was not able to break the doors. Minor damage was caused to the doors. The person remained unidentified.

On 17 October 2006 two diplomats of the Embassy of the United States of America were attacked by two unknown men while they were walking in a public park. The men were subsequently seized and sentenced for assault by the Helsinki District Court, one to conditional imprisonment and the other to pay fines.

On 28 March 2007 an official vehicle of the Embassy of the Republic of Tunisia was damaged in front of the Embassy. The offender remained unknown.

On 27 April 2007 a male person attached a piece of cloth resembling the flag of the Republic of Estonia to the gate of the Embassy. The cloth was covered with a swastika. The person was caught by the staff members of the Embassy and was handed over to the police. The person did not enter the premises of the Embassy and according to the police there are no grounds to suspect a crime. On 28 and 29 April 2007 eggs were thrown at the walls of the Embassy building. On the basis of an anonymous tip-off, the police interrogated a male person who denied his participation in the incident. According to the police there is not enough evidence against the person to proceed with a charge against him.

On 6 June 2007 the flag and the flagpole which were situated on the wall of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco were burnt. The offender remained unknown. The premises of the Embassy were not entered in connection with this incident.

On 29 October 2007 an unknown male person broke into the premises of the Embassy of Romania and stole a jacket from the Embassy's garage. An investigation was carried out by the police but the person remained unidentified.

The services of the parish of St. Nicholas in Helsinki were continuously disrupted by a male person during a longer period of time in 2007. There were growing concern about the safety of the chaplain of the parish who has a diplomatic status in the Embassy of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The police has investigated the incidents and the offender has been summonsed to appear in the Helsinki District Court for breach of sanctity of religion.

On 15 November 2007 an Iranian national threatened to attack the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The police was able to prevent the attack and no injury was caused to the Ambassador. The person has left Finland and thus, the police investigation of the incident has been interrupted.

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 level, but also at the national level between the missions and the competent local authorities.

The Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations avails herself of this opportunity to renew to His Excellency the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurance of her highest consideration.

New York, 15 May 2008

His Excellency  
Secretary-General  
of the United Nations

New York

