



PERMANENT MISSION OF SWEDEN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

New York

The Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and, with reference to his note verbale of 15 December 2006 (ref LA/COD/4) has the honour to submit the following information for inclusion in the report requested by General Assembly resolution 61/31 of 4 December 2006 entitled “Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic missions and representatives”.

During the last two years the following incidents involving the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives have occurred in Sweden.

Denmark

On the night of 15–16 March 2007, unknown perpetrators smashed the window-panes of the front doors to the Honorary Consulate-General of Denmark in Kristianstad and sprayed paint on the façade. The graffiti presumably referred to the (then) ongoing closure of the Youth House in Copenhagen and the youth riots that followed in Copenhagen at the time.

Estonia

On 2 May 2007, an unknown perpetrator entered the locked staircase where the residence of the Ambassador is situated and graffitied insults on his door. This incident coincided with the protests in Tallinn and Moscow against the Estonian authorities’ removal of a WWII statue from a square in Tallinn.

Ethiopia

An unauthorized demonstration was held outside the Ethiopian Embassy on 12 June 2007 by 15 people who shouted at and insulted

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embassy staff on their way to work. The demonstrators attempted to attack the Ambassador's car, but the police stepped in to prevent this.

Iraq

Some incidents of disturbance of public order occurred on the premises of the Iraqi Embassy on various occasions during 2006 and 2007. All of these incidents were connected to disagreements between visitors and Embassy staff regarding applications for passports and visas at the Embassy.

Norway

On 5 September 2006, an upset man repeatedly threatened to burn down the Norwegian Embassy after having visited it. He was turned away from the Embassy and arrested. A custody dispute between him and a Norwegian citizen had preceded this threat.

Syria

A member of the Syrian mission was the victim of burglary in his home on three different occasions and at three different addresses. However, the conclusion of the police investigations into these incidents was that there was no evidence to indicate that these crimes were directed against the victim in his capacity as a diplomat.

Moreover, a number of minor violations of the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives in Sweden were reported during this period. These incidents included trespass on embassy premises, low-level threats, petty thefts and burglaries, in particular of rear-view mirrors belonging to official embassy or diplomatic vehicles, and some cases of harassment of visitors to missions. There has also been a couple of cases involving various kinds of graffiti on Embassy premises and some minor damage to Embassy property.

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

New York, 14 May 2008

