



PERMANENT MISSION OF FINLAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

PC0RMV2K-3

VERBAL NOTE

The Permanent Representation of Finland to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary General of the United Nations and, with reference to note LA/COD/4 of 9 March 2018, has the honour to inform of the following incident pursuant to paragraphs 10, 12 and 13 of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/145 of 13 December 2016 entitled "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives".

On 19 October 2017 two men trespassed on the fenced area of the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Helsinki with an intention to burn the national flag of Iraq. The men managed to cut off the flag from the pole and escape. The men were subsequently seized and later, sentenced to conditional imprisonment for grave breach of public peace. The Finnish authorities strengthened security procedures around the Embassy for some time.

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 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, 9 May 2018



H.E. António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations