

Translated from French

Sixth Committee

Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

Implementation of paragraphs 11, 13 and 14 of General Assembly resolution 75/139 of 15 December 2020

Input of the Kingdom of Belgium

In response to the note verbale of the Secretary-General dated 11 January 2022 concerning the consideration of measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, the Kingdom of Belgium has the honour to convey the following information:

A. Serious violations of the protection, security and safety of diplomatic missions and consular posts in Belgium

The list below shows the incidents reported to the Protocol Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where foreign diplomatic missions and consular posts were targeted, as well as the measures taken in response to those incidents. To put this list into perspective, Belgium wishes to highlight that there are no fewer than 300 accredited diplomatic missions and consular posts in its territory, including the permanent missions to international organizations that are headquartered in Belgium.

In **2020**, the following incidents were reported:

- 08.04.2020 - Burkina Faso - Embassy: Theft of a diplomat's vehicle with a CD licence plate
- 24.04.2020 - Turkey - Mission to the European Union - Act of vandalism: Paint on the mission façade
- 15.06.2020 - Cuba - Embassy - Attempted illegal entry into the mission compound: The individual was under the influence of drugs and was arrested by the police.
- 25.07.2020 – Spain - Permanent Mission to the European Union - Acts of vandalism: Graffiti on the walls of the mission
- Greece - Embassy - Mission staff were harassed, threatened and insulted by an individual.
- 11.07.2020 - Bangladesh - Embassy - Burglary at a diplomat's private residence
- 19.07.2020 - Azerbaijan - Embassy - Illegal entry into the inner compound of the Embassy: The flag was stolen and the flagpole broken.
- 23.07.2020 - Azerbaijan - Embassy - Incidents during a demonstration by the Armenian community in front of the Embassy: The Embassy of Azerbaijan had also authorized a gathering of Azerbaijani nationals in its compound. Despite a large police operation, the situation rapidly deteriorated, giving rise to clashes. The police took swift and decisive

action, calling for additional reinforcements, driving back the demonstrators after projectiles were thrown and making sure that the Azerbaijani demonstrators could leave the Embassy compound safely. To prevent any incident, police officers accompanied them back to their cars, in groups of five.

- 12.08.2020 - Czech Republic - Embassy - Burglary at a diplomat's residence
- 22.08.2020 - Djibouti - Embassy - Attempted illegal entry into the mission compound during a demonstration
- 27.08.2020 - Turkey - Mission to the European Union - Act of vandalism: Graffiti on the mission façade
- 28.08.2020 and 02.09.2020 - Guinea - Embassy - Threat: Audio message left on the Embassy's voicemail, referring to threats against Guinean diplomatic missions and consular posts in Europe. Further threats were made on 02.09.2020 against mission staff, the Embassy and the Ambassador's residence.
- 28.08.2020 - Slovenia - Permanent Mission to the European Union - Physical attack against the spouse of a diplomat serving at the mission
- 08.09.2020 - Norway - Permanent delegation to NATO - Attack: Incident at day-care centre involving the son of a diplomat
- 12.09.2020 - Malta - Permanent Mission to the European Union - Attack against a diplomat
- 15.09.2020 - Iran - Embassy - Acts of vandalism: Graffiti on the outer walls, video intercom and doorbell
- 17.09.2020 - United States - Embassy - Attempted theft in a villa belonging to the Embassy
- 17.09.2020 - Iran - Embassy - Act of vandalism (graffiti)
- 20.09.2020 - Iran - Embassy - Act of vandalism (graffiti)
- 29.09.2020 - North Macedonia - Permanent delegation to NATO - Burglary at the residence of the chargé d'affaires
- 01.10.2020 - Iran - Embassy - Act of vandalism (graffiti)
- 08.10.2020 - Iran - Embassy - Attempted act of vandalism by an individual who fled the scene
- 24.10.2020 - Guinea - Embassy - Property damaged during a demonstration and mission staff threatened
- 26 and 27.10.2020 - Guinea - Embassy - Act of vandalism
- 28.10.2020 - Kyrgyzstan - Embassy - Theft of the Ambassador's car and an iPad
- 28.10.2020 - Peru - Embassy - Theft of items belonging to a diplomat and damage to his car
- 09.11.2020 - Guinea - Embassy - Illegal entry into the Embassy compound and threatening messages left on the entrance door: Additional security measures have been requested for the reopening of the Embassy.
- 21.11.2020 - China - Mission to the European Union - Burglary at a diplomat's residence
- 06.12.2020 - Belarus - Embassy - Act of vandalism against the Embassy building and a car with a CD licence plate

- 19.12.2020 - Peru - Embassy - Theft of a diplomat's phone after the diplomat witnessed and was victim to an armed robbery in a store
- 25.12.2020 - Romania - Embassy - Theft of 14 ordinary passports and one diplomatic passport inside the Embassy

In **2021**, the following incidents were reported:

- 23.01.2021 - Gabon - Embassy - Attempted break-in and theft at the Embassy
- 10.02.2021 - OACPS - Headquarters of the OACPS secretariat - Attempted illegal entry into the unoccupied headquarters of this international organization
- 09.03.2021 - Greece - Permanent Mission to the European Union - Attempt to enter the building illegally and take photos
- 13.03.2021 - Czech Republic - Honorary Consulate - Damage to the offices of the Honorary Consul during a riot
- 16.03.2021 - Ireland - Permanent Mission to the European Union: Two individuals turned up at the residence of the Deputy Permanent Representative, impersonating the agents of a telecommunications company.
- 18.03.2021 - Italy - Permanent Mission to the European Union - Theft from a diplomat's car
- 17.04.2021 - Cuba - Embassy - Threats: A disturbed individual took up position in front of the Embassy and made threats on social media networks.
- 19.04.2021 - Luxembourg - Embassy - Theft of computer equipment from the Ambassador's residence
- 10.05.2021 - Turkey - Embassy: A group of some 15 individuals wrote slogans on the pavement in front of the Embassy and attached a banner to its walls.
- Algeria - Embassy - Harassment and death threats against the Consul General by an Algerian national. A complaint has been filed by the Consul General.
- 15.05.2021 - Russia - Mission to the European Union - Act of vandalism: An official car belonging to the mission was damaged while it was parked in a private garage.
- 16.05.2021 - Grenada - Embassy - Act of vandalism: Illegal entry into the private parking garage of the building where the Ambassador's residence is located. Approximately 10 to 12 vehicles were vandalized, including that of the Ambassador.
- Cuba - Embassy - Harassment and incitement to violence on Facebook by a disturbed individual
- 24.05.2021 - Belarus - Embassy - Act of vandalism: An individual wrote graffiti and affixed posters on the mission building.
- 28.05.2021 - France - Embassy - Attempted illegal entry: An individual turned up at the entrance door of the Embassy and violently assaulted the official who opened the door. The official in question and the Embassy have both filed complaints.
- 01.06.2021 - Italy - Permanent Mission to the European Union - Attempted robbery of a diplomat who was attacked when she was trying to enter the building. The individuals in question attempted to steal her bag.

- 14.06.2021 - Cameroon - Embassy - Illegal entry into the Embassy by activists
- 22.06.2021 - Italy - Permanent delegation to NATO - Attempted burglary at a diplomat's residence: The individuals forced the front door of the apartment; the diplomat's wife was at home and the individuals fled without taking anything.
- 04.07.2021 - Palestine - Mission to the European Union - Act of vandalism: Red paint was daubed on the façade and an insult was written on it in Arabic.
- 28.07.2021 - Turkey - Mission to the European Union - Theft of a vehicle with a CD licence plate, opposite a diplomat's residence
- 03.08.2021 - Bulgaria - Permanent Mission to the European Union - Theft at a diplomat's residence
- 08.08.2021 - Belarus - Embassy: An individual set fire to the entrance door of the consular section.
- Uganda - Embassy - Cyberbullying directed at the Ambassador
- 02.09.2021 - Pakistan - Embassy - Burglary at the residence of an administrative and technical staff member
- 07.09.2021 - Ireland - Embassy - Burglary at the Ambassador's residence: The individual scaled the outer wall and tried unsuccessfully to enter the house through the garage. He ended up stealing some garden furniture.
- 10.09.2021 - Bangladesh - Embassy - Theft of an official laptop computer from a car with a CD licence plate
- 12.09.2021 - Iran - Embassy - Acts of vandalism committed as part of a smear campaign: Posters and photos were affixed to the outer railings of the Embassy. The perpetrators filmed the scene and shared the video on social media. The police were contacted and quickly arrived at the premises to order the individuals concerned to take down the materials.
- 01.10.2021 - Belarus - Embassy - The Embassy received an email stating that a bomb had been placed on mission premises. The necessary security measures were taken. It was in fact a false alert.
- Mali - Embassy - Occupation of the official residence by squatters while work was being carried out
- 21.11.2021 - Latvia - Embassy - Damage to an official car and to fixtures on the outer façade of the mission, caused during a demonstration against health measures
- 24.11.2021 - Costa Rica - Embassy: Two individuals (a man and a woman) went to the dance academy where the daughter of the Ambassador is a student, pretending to be her parents and asking to see her. The girl had already left the class.
- 18.12.2021 - Poland - Permanent Mission to the European Union - Act of vandalism: A group of 80 people gathered to demonstrate in front of the mission premises. Stickers with slogans relating to the situation on the border between Poland and Belarus were affixed to the façade.
- 24.12.2021 - Kazakhstan - Embassy - Burglary at a diplomat's apartment
- Myanmar - Embassy - Theft of a security camera from the mission by two individuals

In the **first few months of 2022**, the following incidents were reported:

- 06.01.2022 - Cameroon - Embassy - Illegal entry into the mission and property damage disrupting the service
- 22.02.2022 - Palestine - Mission to the European Union - Physical and verbal aggression against a diplomat, on mission premises, by a Palestinian national, who also threatened the driver of the Ambassador and Head of Mission of Palestine with a blunt object. The individual was taken by the police to the police station and then released. He returned to the mission, outside which he injured another national thinking he was a mission staff member. Threats have been made on social media against the diplomat who was initially attacked and members of his family.
- 26.02.2022 - Belarus - Embassy - Acts of vandalism: Green paint sprayed on the mission's entrance door
- Russia - Embassy - Acts of vandalism during a demonstration in front of the Embassy
- Belarus - Embassy - Acts of vandalism: In the space of a few days, paintballs and eggs have been thrown at the façades of the mission premises. In addition, the walls of the mission have been painted in the colours of the Ukrainian flag. The Embassy is also receiving threats by email.
- 11.03.2022 - Belarus - Embassy - Acts of vandalism: Empty glass bottles were thrown at the mission façade in the middle of the night. No damage was caused.
- 23.03.2022 - Ukraine - Mission to the European Union: Two individuals were seen filming the official residence; they ran away after being spotted by the driver.

B. Measures needed or already taken to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives as well as missions and representatives with diplomatic status to international intergovernmental organizations

(a) General measures

Security arrangements for diplomatic missions and consular posts are based on the threat analysis conducted by the Threat Analysis Coordination Agency. The Agency determines a threat level for every diplomatic mission in Belgium. The threat level allows the Crisis Centre of the Ministry of the Interior to ask the police to make specific security arrangements adapted to each mission. The Crisis Centre holds a monthly meeting attended by the Protocol Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to review the security arrangements for the various diplomatic missions in Belgium.

(b) Specific measures

Diplomatic missions and consular posts that have a security problem contact the Protocol Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. For each incident, the standard procedure is applied. This consists of informing the competent authorities, primarily the Crisis Centre of the Ministry of the Interior, so that the appropriate security measures can be taken by the relevant police district. The mission in question then always receives an acknowledgement from the Protocol Division, setting out the appropriate course of action to be taken.

In addition, whenever the situation so requires, diplomatic missions are immediately invited to file a complaint, if they wish to do so, and are encouraged to send a copy of the report to the Protocol Division. That report is then duly transmitted to the competent authorities. The missions are free to learn the outcome of their complaint by asking the police directly, going through a lawyer or asking the Protocol Division.

C. Serious violations of the protection, security and safety of Belgian diplomatic missions and consular posts

The list below shows the incidents that occurred during the period in question against Belgian diplomatic missions and consular posts abroad:

- 5.02.2021 - Philippines - Embassy - Death threats against a staff member
- May 2021 - Turkey - Embassy - Violation of the privacy of staff members on mission premises
- May 2021 - Poland - Embassy - Illegal entry into the Embassy compound
- May 2021 - United States - Embassy - Theft of a service vehicle
- 18.09.2021 - China - Embassy - Illegal entry into the Embassy compound: An individual jumped over the fence surrounding the Embassy grounds.
- 23.09.2021 and 17.11.2021 - Democratic Republic of the Congo - Embassy - Violent forced access to the consular services for Schengen countries by Congolese nationals, on two occasions
- October 2021 - Mozambique - Diplomatic office - Theft of a laptop computer intended for the transmission of restricted information
- April 2022 - Peru - Embassy - A diplomat's car was broken into and items stolen.

Belgium is also concerned that measures taken by some States to combat the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic are hindering the proper functioning of diplomatic missions and consular posts and even jeopardizing the safety and security of staff serving in these diplomatic missions and consular posts.
