



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND  
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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وین

*In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful*

Vienna, 9 August 2019

**Excellency,**

As you are fully aware, on 31 July 2019, the US administration in another unlawful and undiplomatic motion against my country, designated and imposed illegal sanctions against Iran's Foreign Minister, H.E. Dr. Mohammad Javad ZARIF, on the basis of "acting or purported to act for on behalf of Iran's Supreme Leader", the highest ranking official of State, and for "being his nation's primary spokesperson around the world". In fact, Minister ZARIF has been sanctioned for representing the Iranian nation to the best of his ability and for being a sincere advocate for dialogue, diplomacy, peace and multilateralism, the noble concepts, which the US administration defies.

This is just one another vivid instance of the numerous unlawful actions taken by the US in line with the so-called 'maximum pressure' policy against Iran, including through instigating economic terrorism against the Iranian nation which has been exacerbated in past 15 months after the US's unlawful unilateral withdrawal from JCPOA, in bold insolence of the unanimously adopted UNSC resolution 2231 endorsing the agreement.

The underlying repercussions of sanctioning a foreign minister of a sovereign UN member State is a flagrant violation of fundamental norms and principles of international law including the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and perturbing the institution of diplomacy and multilateralism which are among the precious achievements of international community to maintain and uphold peace and security among nations.

The US' arbitrary decision to sanction foreign minister of another state for no reason other than representing his nation and the State divulges the inveterate duplicity of the United States' authorities in their inconsistent assertions. It also contradicts the established principles and rules of diplomatic law and inter-State relations, in particular the principle of inviolability and immunity of high-ranking foreign officials including immunity of incumbent ministers of foreign affairs, as a universally accepted norm and rule of customary international law.

The American resort to unilateral coercive measures against a UN member State and its foreign minister signifies a serious setback to 'diplomacy' and a deplorable blow to universally shared code of conduct regarding immunity of State officials and respect for diplomats as representatives of sovereign States. It undermines the 'profession of diplomacy' and jeopardizes the 'diplomatic interaction' as the recognized medium for State-to-State communication and engagement.

Taking into consideration the restriction levied on the movement and activities of Minister ZARIF during his recent visit to New York to attend in the United Nations sessions, the US illegal action is also in barefaced desecration of Article 105(2) of the UN Charter regarding the privileges and immunities of representatives of Member States in discharging their duties in connection with the United Nations. It is also in infringement of the 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations and the firm principles of international customary law enshrined in 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

It, likewise, intensely demonstrates the abuse of the US' honor as the UN headquarters' host country, since it is underscoring the obligations undertaken by the United States under the 1947 UN-US Headquarters Agreement which, based on all relevant consensual resolutions of UNGA, the latest of which is A/RES/73/212, "cannot be subject to any restrictions arising from the bilateral relations of the host country", "urges the host country to remove without delay any restrictions applied" and to "ensure respect for privileges and immunities."

**Excellency,**

I reach out to you, to alarm on the consequences of US' unabated infringement of the foundation of inter-State dialogue, international cooperation and multilateralism. The US' designation of Iran's top diplomat is an offensive to all diplomats who truly represent their countries, speak for their people and work toward peace. By sanctioning Dr. ZARIF, a globally commended diplomat who has greatly contributed to world peace through his proficient and professional engagement with other interlocutors, the US administration has displayed its deep contempt for the conduct of diplomacy at a time we need it the most. This must not be taken lightly, nor should it be let banalized. Thus, it is essential for the international community to deplore, in the strongest terms, the US unlawful behavior in the interest of promoting diplomacy and multilateralism. The United Nations, its subsidiary bodies and specialized agencies as well as all its Member States should stand together in defending the established principles of International law and to negate global bigotry, which otherwise will have far-reaching negative implications for the institution of diplomacy and its vital functioning.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

**Kazem Garib Abadi**  
**Ambassador**  
**Permanent Representative**

**H.E. Mr. Yury Fedotov**  
**Executive Director UNODC**  
**Director General UNOV**

