

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Mohammed Hassan FADAIFARD
Ambassador and the Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations on agenda item 156**

**Consideration of Effective Measures to Enhance the Protection,
Security and Safety of Diplomatic and Consular Missions and Representatives**

New York, October 18, 2000

In the Name of God the Compassionate the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to begin by expressing the appreciation of my delegation to the Secretary General for his report on “Consideration of Effective Measures to Enhance the Protection, Security and Safety of Diplomatic and Consular Missions and Representatives”, as contained in document A/55/164 and its addendum. I also take this opportunity to commend the Nordic countries for their efforts in promoting the safety and security of diplomatic and consular missions and their personnel.

Mr. Chairman,

I need not overemphasize the fundamental principle of the inviolability of the premises of diplomatic and consular missions and their representatives. Since, it is a universally accepted norm and has been observed for centuries in relations among nations. The two Vienna conventions on diplomatic and consular relations of 1961 and 1963, along with the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Internationally Protected Persons Including Diplomatic Agents of 1973, are basic instruments clarifying the obligations of States in ensuring the security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. Moreover, several resolutions adopted by the General Assembly underline that respect for the norms and principles of international law governing diplomatic and consular relations is a prerequisite for the normal conduct of relations among nations. These resolutions strongly condemn violence against diplomatic and consular missions, urge States to take necessary measures to ensure that these crimes are fully investigated and that the perpetrators of such crimes are brought to justice.

Despite measures adopted so far, it is unfortunate to not, from the report before the Sixth Committee that, several instances of violence against premises of diplomatic and consular missions and their personnel have occurred in the past two years. The recent terrorist attack against the Embassy of the United Kingdom in Sanaa is yet another indication demonstrating that threats against diplomatic missions and representatives are not abated. It is also a matter of concern to my delegation that in certain cases the perpetrators of such heinous crimes have yet to be brought to justice. .

I deem it necessary, to recall here only two cases out of many incidents of violence against Iranian diplomats in the past years. The first and a longstanding case is related to the abduction of Charge d’ affairs of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in

Beirut together with three staff members of the Embassy in 1982. Since then, in spite of the good offices of the former and the incumbent Secretary Generals, we have not received any credible information on their destinies. Moreover, rumors about possible murder of our diplomats have not been substantiated. In the absence of any credible information concerning the likelihood of their massacre, we have every reason to believe that they are still alive and are captive somewhere in the region. Consequently, the family members of these diplomats have been painfully waiting for years to obtain reliable news on the fates of their loved ones with the hope that one day they will return to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The second case concerns the massacre of all members of the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran and an Iranian journalist by Taliban forces in August 1998, in the city of Mazar-e-Sharif. Although these barbaric crimes have been condemned by governments throughout the world and by the United Nations, as a blatant violation of fundamental norms and principles of international law, the Taliban leaders have yet to heed the demand of the international community and the call by the Security Council to cooperate with the United Nations in investigating these outrageous crimes with a view to bringing the perpetrators to justice.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a party to all instruments contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary General, urges all States to take appropriate measures to ensure that the safety and security of the diplomatic and consular missions and representatives are strictly observed, and in compliance with their treaty obligations to investigate and try the offenders of such crimes. My delegation also believe that the reporting mechanism established by the General assembly Resolution 42/154, concerning the violation of norms and principles of international law pertaining to the diplomatic and consular missions has proved to be useful and therefore it should continue in future.
