



Security Council

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Identical letters dated 16 June 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In reference to the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) covering the period from 21 February to 20 May 2021 (S/2021/516), and on instructions from my Government, I wish to convey the following observations:

- It was noted that when referring to the security situation in Syria – as, for example in paragraph 21 – the report uses terms inconsistent with the legal statuses of certain groups. These are armed terrorist groups, not “opposition groups”. That shows that the United Nations is going along with the Western narrative and the interference in Syrian affairs, which is not part of the UNDOF mandate.
- Like its predecessors, the report is full of errors and fallacies that reflect only one side’s position. UNDOF should fulfil its mandate in a transparent and impartial manner. The role of UNDOF is to monitor the Disengagement of Forces Agreement and expose the side that violates it, namely, Israel.
- The report puts Syria on an equal footing with Israel in terms of violating the Agreement. We have already brought to your attention actions that that are in blatant violation of the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement.
- The report neglects to mention that Israel continues to launch drone flights and air attacks. Israel is not mentioned by name, and the authors use indirect language when talking about this subject. Paragraph 3 mentions “crossing of the line by aircraft, drones and individuals”; paragraph 4 mentions “hearing a plane cross from west to east”. These are blatant violations of the Disengagement of Forces Agreement and breaches of the ceasefire line. To speak of them in such terms amounts to a cover-up of repeated Israeli violations of the sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic.
- The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic complies with the Disengagement of Forces Agreement on the understanding that it remains in effect on an interim basis pending the implementation of Security Council resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#), [338 \(1973\)](#) and [497 \(1981\)](#), in all of which the Council reaffirms that the occupied Golan is an integral part of the Syrian Arab Republic, calls upon Israel to withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan up to the line of 4 June 1967, and reaffirms that the decision to annex the Golan is null and void and has no legal effect.
- The Syrian Government continues to coordinate with and provide every form of support to UNDOF, bearing in mind that the mission arising from Disengagement of Forces Agreement is completely independent of other United Nations missions operating in Syria or the region.



- The success of UNDOF is contingent upon enforcing the Disengagement of Forces Agreement and putting a stop to hostile Israeli incidents and breaches, abductions of Syrian citizens, and ongoing attacks within the area of separation, the area of limitation and deeper inside Syrian territory. For the United Nations to continue to document attacks, violations, and abductions and to record such incidents without any chance of the Security Council condemning them undermines and imperils its work.

We leave you with a list of the latest Israeli violations of the Disengagement of Forces Agreement.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Bassam **Sabbagh**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Hostile violations in the area of separation and deeper inside Syrian territory

The Israeli occupying forces have attacked positions inside the areas of separation and limitation and deeper in Syrian territory in the areas of Ruwayhinah, Hurriyah and the liberated city of Qunaytirah, as well as the areas around Damascus International Airport in Rif Dimashq, Dayr al-Zawr, Albu Kamal, Misyaf, Homs, Hama and Ladhiqiyah, under the pretext of the presence of Iranian or Hizbullah positions or personnel. A number of Syrians were killed or injured in these attacks. Violations and attacks took place within sight and hearing of United Nations positions along the ceasefire line and in the area of separation. They were documented by the command of United Nations forces operating in the Golan. There have been more than 100 such attacks and violations. The Israeli occupying army has acknowledged these attacks, and also admitted to crossing the ceasefire line and abducting Syrian citizens, including the following:

- On 2 February 2021, Israeli occupying forces abducted Syrian national Imran Ibrahim al-Khidr in the Tall Ukkashah area near the village of Burayqah. He was handed over to us through United Nations forces operating in the Golan at the Qunaytirah crossing gate in the presence of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
- On 7 February 2021, Israeli occupying forces abducted an 18-year-old Syrian national, Muhammad Ahmad Husayn (a herder) in the area south of Hirsh al-Shahhar in Jubbatah al-Khashab. He was handed over to us through United Nations forces operating in the Golan at the Qunaytirah crossing gate in the presence of ICRC.
- On 11 February 2021, Israeli occupying forces abducted an 18-year-old Syrian national, Tariq Jamal al-Ghassab (a herder) in the Abidin area while he was tending his flock. He was handed over to us through United Nations forces operating in the Golan at the Qunaytirah crossing gate in the presence of ICRC.
- On 28 February 2021, Israeli occupying forces abducted Syrian national Muhammad Jasim al-Muhammad (mother's name Nadwah, born in Ishshah 1998) 200 m from United Nations observation post 53, about 5 km east of Khishniyah, across from Hirsh Kudna. He was released in the same area where he was abducted, across the ceasefire line, which endangered his life and violated the terms of the Disengagement of Forces Agreement, under which he should have been handed over via the Qunaytirah gate through United Nations forces operating in the Golan and ICRC.
- On 7 March 2021, Israeli occupying forces abducted Syrian national Ridwan Fawaz Diyab (born 1954 in Butniyah, resident of Kudnah), from the Hirsh Kudnah area opposite United Nations observation post 53 about 5 km east of Khishniyah. He was released in the same area where he was abducted, across the ceasefire line, which endangered his life and violated the terms of the Disengagement of Forces Agreement, under which he should have been handed over via the Qunaytirah gate through United Nations forces operating in the Golan and ICRC.
- On 10 March 2021, Israeli occupying forces abducted Palestinian national Imran Ali Abdullah (mother's name A'idah, born 2004 in Basalah) while he was tending his flock in the Wadi Kafr al-Ma area. He was released in the same area where he was abducted, across the ceasefire line, which endangered his life and violated the terms of the Disengagement of Forces Agreement, under which he should have been handed over via the Qunaytirah gate through United Nations forces operating in the Golan and ICRC.
- On 10 March 2021, Israeli occupying forces abducted Syrian national Wahib Imran Nassar (mother's name Raja' al-Husayn, born in Jubbata al-Khashab, age 15) in the Jubbata al-Khashab-Hirsh Jubbata area 100 m from the Ruwaysat al-Hamra' gate. He was released in the same area where he was abducted, across the ceasefire line, which endangered his life and violated the terms of the Disengagement of

Forces Agreement, under which he should have been handed over via the Qunaytirah gate through United Nations forces operating in the Golan and ICRC.

The Israeli occupation forces have been carrying out strikes from the occupied Golan, from the sea and from Lebanese airspace against civilian and military targets across the country since the outbreak of the recent events in Syria. The Israeli occupation is an essential part of these events and has violated the agreement non-stop to date.
