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The situation in the Middle East

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Identical letters dated 21 January 2024 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and further to our letters regarding repeated Israeli acts of aggression against the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, I should like to convey to you the following:

On Saturday, 20 January 2024, at 1030 hours, the Israeli entity launched a missile attack from the direction of the occupied Syrian Golan against the city of Damascus. It targeted a residential building in the Mazzah neighbourhood in the heart of the capital. The building collapsed completely and adjacent buildings were damaged. Several civilians were killed. This was a brutal act before which the human conscience trembles. It violated the most basic of human rights, the right to live in safety.

Killing, destruction and genocide have now become a permanent policy that will lead to major catastrophes in the region and the world if it is ignored. The Government and army of the Zionist entity are repeating what they did in Gaza, destroying homes and killing and displacing innocent people in other cities. It is beyond doubt that they are attacking and destroying infrastructure in countries that push back against their policies. They know that the neighbourhood they attacked in Damascus contains many diplomatic buildings and United Nations offices. It therefore threatened the safety and security of the United Nations missions and staff, in flagrant violation of provisions of the Vienna Convention concerning diplomatic missions.

Syria calls upon the United Nations to compel the Zionist entity to desist from these vicious attacks against innocent civilians and civilian buildings, which violate the 1974 Separation of Forces Agreement; Security Council resolutions, including resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#), [338 \(1973\)](#) and [497 \(1981\)](#); provisions of international law and international humanitarian law; and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Syrian Arab Republic has documented all these attacks carried out by the Zionist entity against its citizens and infrastructure. However, that has not elicited any response condemning these fascist Israeli acts. We wonder how many women and



children it will take for the United Nations to shoulder its responsibility, put a stop to these attacks on Syria, and hold accountable the Israeli war criminals who are threatening further escalation in the region with their policy of genocide, which the world pledged to end when it adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the 1940s.

The pronouncements of the Zionist war criminals are typified by their Prime Minister, who is devoid of any humanitarian or moral values, and said that his entity would tighten its grip on the entire region from the sea to the river. That merely confirms the fascist approach, the denial of the rights and existence of peoples, and the genocidal and ethnic cleansing being practiced by so-called Israel without regard for international laws and instruments.

The Syrian Arab Republic calls upon the United Nations, the Security Council, the General Assembly and other relevant organs to shoulder their responsibilities, put an end to the Israeli fascist attacks, condemn them, hold the perpetrators accountable, take measures to ensure that they do not recur, and see to it that the relevant United Nations resolutions are implemented. The Syrian Arab Republic warns that continued international silence with regard to the unfettered Israeli death and destruction machine will inexorably lead to dangerous repercussions for the security of the region and the world. It stresses that sooner or later, that entity will pay the price for its crimes.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued and circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alhakam **Dandy**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
