



Security Council

Distr.: General
18 December 2014

Original: English

Letter dated 15 December 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter from Mr. Najib Ghadbian, Special Representative of the Syrian National Coalition to the United Nations, dated 15 December 2014 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdulmohsen **Alyas**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



Annex to the letter dated 15 December 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces, it is my grave responsibility to draw to your attention the escalating violence in Syria and the urgent need to effectively implement the mandate of Security Council resolution 2165 (2014) to ensure aid delivery at scale.

The humanitarian situation in Syria is rapidly worsening. Over the course of the past four weeks, Syrian regime forces have brutally attacked civilian-occupied areas across Syria, indiscriminately deploying barrel bombs with the intention to terrorize, maim and kill innocent men, women and children. Extremist terrorist groups led by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS) have viciously terrorized Syria's ethnic and religious minorities, raping, torturing and beheading civilians. Meanwhile, regime forces have continued their illegal policies of siege warfare, with Assad's military callously starving innocent civilians in the hopes of forcing them into submission.

Since the initiation of United States-led airstrikes against ISIS, the Syrian regime has launched more than 2,500 airstrikes, the vast majority of which have focused on Damascus, Idlib, Aleppo and Daraa. During the period from 20 October through 10 December 2014, regime helicopters dropped a total of 1,125 barrel bombs, killing 603 civilians, including 129 children and 112 women. As the enclosure to the present letter demonstrates, regime forces have been particularly brutal in the city of Raqqa, where they have exploited the cover of United States-led airstrikes on ISIS to slaughter innocent civilians on an unprecedented scale. These strikes fit a clear pattern: rather than target terrorist groups, they selectively target Syrians who demand a democratic and inclusive future for their country. Throughout the past year, no less than 94 per cent of the Syrian regime's 982 alleged counterterrorism operations have targeted moderate opposition forces. Of the regime's 238 strikes on Aleppo, only 14 have targeted ISIS. The purpose of these strikes is thus clear: to exterminate Syria's moderates and eradicate our forces on the ground.

As regime airstrikes have barraged civilian areas, Syrian armed forces have deployed sieges on entire cities. Al-Waer, eastern Ghouta, Darayya, Tadamun, Hajr Aswad and Yarmouk remain under brutal regime-enforced sieges, with over 300,000 people trapped without access to food, water and medical care. Regime forces have repeatedly impeded the delivery of aid across conflict lines, ensuring that millions of Syrians remain without access to urgently needed assistance. Regime forces also continue to deprive Syrians in hard-to-reach areas from urgently needed medical assistance, as a consequence of which innocent men, women and children are dying of preventable disease.

The atrocities perpetrated by the Syrian regime violate the rights and dignity of the Syrian people. They also violate international humanitarian and international human rights law. This includes the Additional Protocols I and II to the Geneva Conventions, which explicitly prohibit indiscriminate attacks on civilian objects, and Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014), in which the Security Council unanimously demanded that Syrian authorities cease the indiscriminate employment of weapons in populated areas. Repeatedly, however, these legal obligations have gone unheeded by the Syrian regime. They have also gone unenforced by the Security Council.

To improve the humanitarian situation in Syria, the Security Council must take meaningful, comprehensive action to alter the situation on the ground and ensure that aid reaches those in need. The Syrian National Coalition therefore urges the Security Council to act without delay to:

- Enforce the mandate of Security Council resolution 2165 (2014) to ensure cross-border aid at scale. Security Council resolution 2165 (2014) established a comprehensive mandate to enhance the delivery of cross-border aid. It promised to reach 3.5 million Syrians. Yet five months after its adoption, just a small fraction of that number has been reached due to a lack of proper enforcement. Effective implementation of Security Council resolution 2165 (2014) is thus needed to ensure cross-border delivery at scale;
- Renew resolution 2165 (2014). The mandate is soon due to expire. It should be renewed and strengthened to ensure cross-border delivery at scale;
- Protect Syrians in need. Millions of Syrians would find immediate relief from regime aerial strikes and terrorist extremist groups, were the Security Council to support the establishment of a safe zone. Such a zone would save lives and bring security to innocent men, women and children. Most importantly, it would set the basis for a potential peace process;
- Increase humanitarian commitments to the Syrian people. As the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs informed the Security Council on 25 November 2014, the international community continues to fall short of meeting the humanitarian needs of the Syrian people. The World Food Programme, for example, is still struggling to keep its food voucher programme available to refugees beyond January 2015. While some members of the Council have shown enormous generosity to the Syrian people, it is vital that all members fulfil and increase the pledges that they have made to the United Nations and to Syrians in need. This includes support for Syrians struggling both inside and outside of Syria, as well as Syria's neighbours, including Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon, which require infrastructural and macroeconomic support as they carry the burden of Syria's refugee crisis.

Since the adoption of Security Council resolution 2165 (2014), the Syrian National Coalition has worked actively to deliver humanitarian relief to hundreds of thousands of Syrians. In the past several weeks, our Assistance Coordination Unit has delivered goods and services cross border to Syrians throughout Syria's provinces. Where access through the United Nations has proven impossible, we have worked with partners to increase the flow of aid into Syria through non-United Nations channels. Our priority remains to ensure the safety and security of Syria's people.

As the Syrian National Coalition works to relieve the suffering of the Syrian people, we also work to end the conflict that is the cause of such suffering. We remain committed to the pursuit of a political solution forged on the Geneva Communiqué, and are committed to the establishment of a future Syria that is free, democratic and inclusive. We hope that the Security Council remains equally committed to this goal, and we hope to work in partnership to create the conditions necessary on the ground to achieve it.

(Signed) **Najib Ghadbian**
Special Representative of the Syrian National Coalition
to the United Nations

Enclosure

Non-compliance by the Syrian regime with Security Council resolution 2139 (2014) and ISIS violations

- (i) **Paragraph 3:** *All parties immediately cease attacks against civilians and the indiscriminate employment of weapons in populated areas.*
- According to the Syrian Network for Human Rights, Syrian regime forces killed 1,169 people in November 2014, including no less than 78 women, 176 children (amounting to 6 children a day) and 266 rebel fighters; 231 of those killed in November were killed under torture. Women and children comprised 22 per cent of the death toll. The Syrian Network for Human Rights could not collect information on the deaths in areas cut off by the regime.
 - ISIS killed no less than 108 people in November 2014. Of the 57 civilians killed, 5 were children (2 killed under torture) and 51 were rebel fighters.
 - The Syrian Network for Human Rights also documented 56 additional deaths. They were unable to verify the side responsible for the deaths.

Violation: massacres in November 2014

- The Syrian Network for Human Rights issued a report documenting 33 massacres that took place in November 2014; 31 of the massacres were committed by regime forces, 1 by extremist groups and 1 by armed groups; 7 massacres occurred in Hama, 5 in Aleppo, 5 in Dar`a, 5 in Rif Dimashq, 3 in Idlib, 2 in Homs, 2 in Deir ez-Zor and 1 in Damascus. In total 393 people were killed in those massacres, including 93 children and 48 women, totaling 36 per cent of the victims, indicating a deliberate policy of targeting women and children. Of those killed, 363 were killed by regime forces, including 82 children and 48 women, and 17 people were killed by ISIS.
- The massacres were as follows:

Raqqa

- o On 11 November 2014, Syrian regime warplanes targeted Raqqa, killing 14 individuals, including 2 children and 5 women.
- o On 16 November 2014, ISIS executed 17 individuals at the Tabaga market in Raqqa after they were accused of espionage and working with regime forces.
- o On 19 November 2014, Syrian regime warplanes targeted Raqqa with a missile, killing 9 people, including 2 children and 1 woman, and injuring 16 others.
- o On 25 November 2014, Syrian regime warplanes carried out 9 airstrikes in Raqqa, killing up to 200 people, including children and women. The strikes destroyed many buildings.
- o On 27 November 2014, Syrian regime warplanes carried out 8 airstrikes targeting Raqqa, killing 7 individuals, including 1 child and 2 women, in addition to destroying a number of residential buildings.

- o On 28 November 2014, Syrian regime warplanes targeted the areas surrounding Jraksa Mosque in Raqqa, killing 6 people, including 4 children, in addition to partially destroying the mosque and damaging several residential buildings and shops.
- o On 29 November 2014, Syrian regime warplanes launched 2 missiles at Raqqa, killing 11 people, including 1 child, and injuring 16 others, in addition to destroying a number of stores.

Hama

- o On 2 November 2014, Syrian regime warplanes targeted Um Twyena, killing 5 people.
- o On 2 November 2014, regime forces targeted Qabr Fedda village, killing 8 people.
- o On 2 November 2014, regime forces raided Karim village, shooting and killing 15 people, including 1 child and 3 women.
- o On 11 November 2014, regime forces ambushed Lahouna village, killing 13 people.

Aleppo

- o On 6 November 2014, regime helicopters dropped 2 barrel bombs on Ashaar neighborhood in Aleppo, killing 14 people, including 3 children and 2 women, and damaging a number of residential buildings.
- o On 9 November 2014, regime helicopters dropped 2 barrel bombs on Al Bab city, killing at least 7 civilians, including 5 children and 1 woman. The shelling caused major destruction.
- o On 17 November 2014, regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on a restaurant in Al Bab city, killing 18 people and injuring 35 others. The restaurant was burned and completely destroyed.
- o On 18 November 2014, Syrian regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Kafr Hamra-Hreitan road, killing 16 people, including 5 children, 3 women and 1 paramedic. An ambulance was burned and multiple cars were heavily damaged.
- o On 30 November 2014, regime warplanes launched a missile on Andan city, killing 11 individuals, including 1 child.

Dar`a

- o On 8 November 2014, regime forces targeted Sheikh Miskeen city, killing 5 people, including 2 children and 2 women.
- o On 9 November 2014, regime helicopters dropped multiple barrel bombs on Dael city, killing 6 people, including 2 children, in addition to damaging residential buildings.
- o On 19 November 2014, regime helicopters dropped multiple barrel bombs on Hara city, killing 9 people, including 4 children and 2 women. Several residential buildings were damaged.

- o On 28 November 2014, Syrian regime warplanes targeted Inkhil city, killing 6 people.
- o On 30 November 2014, Syrian regime warplanes carried out 2 airstrikes targeting Jasim city, killing 27 individuals, including 5 children and 5 women, in addition to causing fires in a number of shops and damaging several residential buildings.

Rif Dimashq

- o On 7 November 2014, regime warplanes carried out 6 airstrikes targeting Marj al-Sultan, killing 10 people, including 2 children and 5 women.
- o On 13 November 2014, regime warplanes carried out 2 airstrikes targeting Saqba town, killing 10 people, including 3 children and 4 women, in addition to destroying a number of buildings.
- o On 17 November 2014, regime warplanes launched 2 missiles at Zamalka, killing 6 women and 2 children, in addition to greatly damaging residential buildings.

Idlib

- o On 6 November 2014, Syrian regime warplanes targeted Mouqa town with a missile, killing 5 people, including 1 female child and 2 women, in addition to damaging residential buildings.
- o On 16 November 2014, regime warplanes targeted Maarat Misreen city with a missile, killing 5 people, including a child and a woman, in addition to destroying residential buildings.
- o On 18 November 2014, regime helicopters dropped 2 barrel bombs on Maar Shmarien, killing 6 civilians, including 4 children and 2 women.

Homs

- o On 2 November 2014, Syrian regime forces targeted a residential building with 2 surface-to-surface missiles, killing 5 people, including 3 children, in addition to causing material damage to residential buildings.
- o On 12 November 2014, regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on a building in Rastan city, killing 6 people, including 1 child and 2 women.

Deir ez-Zor

- o On 19 November 2014, Syrian regime helicopters targeted Hatla village with a missile, killing 12 people, including 5 children and 4 women.
- o On 28 November 2014, regime warplanes targeted a water crossing connecting Bolail and Sabha villages with a missile, killing 5 people and injuring 6 others.

Damascus

- o On 5 November 2014, the Syrian regime targeted Al Hayat School in the Qaboon neighbourhood of Damascus with 2 missiles, killing 15 children and injuring 25 others, in addition to damaging the school.
- On 12 December 2014, 200 regime forces surrounded the Fayd neighbourhood in Jabla city. No one was allowed to enter or exit the neighbourhood. Afterwards, the soldiers raided homes, and arrested youth and took them onto military buses. The campaign lasted for 6 hours. The regime arrested approximately 47 individuals who are believed to have been forcibly recruited to join the regime forces. This is the second largest raid, the first happening in November in Hama.

Violation: Syrian regime's use of barrel bombs and indiscriminate and aerial munitions

- The Syrian regime continued to drop indiscriminate barrel bombs and aerial munitions during the reporting cycle, killing and injuring many civilians.
- The Syrian regime continued its policy of the indiscriminate shelling of vital centres in opposition-controlled areas in order to paralyse the civil, economic and commercial operations and disrupt the educational, health and food structures in those areas. According to the Syrian Network for Human Rights, the regime targeted 46 centres in November, including 16 schools, 12 places of worship, 10 markets, 7 medical centres, 3 bridges and water crossings, 2 ambulances, 2 water stations, 2 power plants, 1 bakery, 1 museum and 1 silo. Regime shelling included the following:

Schools

- o On 4 November 2014, regime forces targeted a school in Rastan, Homs, with a missile, killing 2 people.
- o On 5 November 2014, regime forces shelled Al-Mahdtha Elementary School in Idlib, killing 15 children and injuring 25 others.
- o On 5 November 2014, regime forces targeted Hazrma Elementary School in Rif Dimashq, injuring a child.
- o On 6 November 2014, regime forces dropped missiles at Darat Izza School in Aleppo, injuring 7 people and destroying 3 classrooms and the entire second floor. The school is out of commission due to the shelling.
- o On 9 November 2014, regime forces targeted the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East Shaab School in Douma, Rif Dimashq, with a thermobaric missile. The missile destroyed one of the school buildings in its entirety.
- o On 13 November 2014, regime warplanes dropped a missile on a school in Idlib in the Sanjar Rajm al-Qet village, killing a teacher and injuring others.
- o On 17 November 2014, regime warplanes dropped a thermobaric missile on Amjad al-Sham School in Zamalka, Rif Dimashq, killing 3 children

and wounding 15 others, in addition to causing major destruction to the school.

- o On 19 November 2014, regime warplanes dropped 2 missiles on Ibn Khaldoun School in Raqqa city, killing 9 people and injuring 15 others.
- o On 27 November 2014, regime warplanes targeted Dar al-Salam School in Raqqa city, partially destroying one of the school buildings.
- o On 28 November 2014, regime warplanes dropped 4 missiles on Iblien school in Idlib, killing 1 child and wounding another and heavily damaging the school.
- o On 29 November 2014, regime warplanes dropped 2 missiles on Kharita High School in Deir ez-Zor, completely destroying the school.
- o On 29 November 2014, regime warplanes dropped 2 barrel bombs on Wahid al-Yousef School in Kafr Sajna village, Idlib, completely destroying the school.

Places of worship

- o On 2 November 2014, regime forces targeted Abu Bakr Mosque in Zamalka, Rif Dimashq, destroying the minaret of the mosque.
- o On 3 November 2014, regime warplanes targeted the Islamic Orphanage's mosque in Al Waer, Homs, causing great damage to the mosque.
- o On 7 November 2014, regime forces bombed near Tayba al-Qadim Mosque in Rif Dimashq, injuring 14 civilians who were exiting the mosque after Friday prayers. The mosque and nearby homes were damaged by the bombing.
- o On 14 November 2014, regime forces launched artillery shells on Abu Bakr al-Siddiq Mosque in Dar'a, injuring one person and heavily damaging the mosque minaret.
- o On 15 November 2014, regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Omar ibn al-Khattab Mosque in Aleppo, heavily damaging the mosque.
- o On 16 November 2014, regime forces launched mortar shells on Madera Mosque in Rif Dimashq, injuring 4 civilians and heavily damaging the mosque.
- o On 19 November 2014, a mortar shell hit Salib Church in eastern Damascus, damaging the church. It remains unknown who was behind the attack.
- o On 23 November 2014, regime warplanes launched 2 missiles on Harviel Mosque in the Aradi neighbourhood in Deir ez-Zor, damaging the mosque and nearby houses.
- o On 25 November 2014, regime warplanes launched a missile at Hani Mosque in Raqqa city, killing 8 people and injuring 4 others and damaging the minaret and part of the roof.

- o On 28 November 2014, regime warplanes launched 2 missiles at the Abu Bakr al-Siddiq Mosque in Al-Shdadi city, Hasakeh. Within a few minutes, regime helicopters dropped 2 barrel bombs on the surrounding areas, killing 6 people and injuring 9 others, and causing damage to the mosque and destroying dozens of nearby shops and homes.
- o On 28 November 2014, regime warplanes launched 4 missiles on Iblen Mosque in Idlib, killing 1 child and damaging the mosque.
- o On 28 November 2014, regime warplanes launched 2 missiles on the Jraksa Mosque in Raqqa, killing 6 people, including 4 children, and destroying the mosque and nearby buildings and shops.
- o On 29 November 2014, regime warplanes launched 2 missiles on Nawawi Mosque in Raqqa city, killing 11 people, including a child, and injuring 16 others. Parts of the mosque were destroyed, as were 8 nearby shops.

Markets

- o On 5 November 2014, regime warplanes launched a missile at the fruit market in Muarat alNuman in Idlib, destroying some nearby homes and properties.
- o On 15 November 2014, regime forces launched a thermobaric missile at Ain Tarma market in Rif Dimashq, injuring 10 civilians and destroying 5 shops.
- o On 23 November 2014, regime forces launched mortar shells at a market in Ain al-Fija in Rif Dimashq, destroying some of the shops.
- o On 23 November 2014, a motorbike exploded in a popular market near Hasakeh, killing 1 person and injuring 4 others, in addition to causing material damage to multiple shops. It remains unknown who was responsible for the bombing.
- o On 25 November 2014, regime warplanes launched 2 missiles at the industrial area in Raqqa city, killing 44 people and injuring 57 others; 15 shops and 17 residential homes were destroyed.
- o On 27 November 2014, there was a car explosion at the entrance of a popular market in Maydaen city, Deir ez-Zor, injuring 4 people and destroying 4 shops. It remains unknown who was responsible for the explosion.
- o On 28 November 2014, regime helicopters dropped 2 barrel bombs on the commercial street in Al-Shdadi city, Hasakeh, killing 4 people, including 2 women and destroying 11 shops.
- o On 30 November 2014, regime warplanes launched a missile at a commercial street in Hatla village, Deir ez-Zor, killing 12 people, including 5 children and 4 women, and injuring 11 others; 6 shops and 3 homes were destroyed.
- o On 30 November 2014, regime warplanes targeted Tayma market in Hasakeh, injuring 2 people and destroying 7 shops.

Medical centres

- o On 5 November 2014, regime warplanes carried out 5 airstrikes targeting Kansfra in Idlib. One of the airstrikes targeted Kansfra Hospital, destroying both its infrastructure and machines. The hospital is out of commission due to the regime airstrike.
- o On 7 November 2014, regime forces dropped an explosive cylinder on Walid Hospital in the Al Waer neighbourhood of Homs, greatly damaging the hospital.
- o On 8 November 2014, regime warplanes targeted the areas surrounding Shahid Wasim Hasimou Hospital in Idlib, damaging the hospital.
- o On 27 November 2014, regime warplanes launched a missile at National Hospital in Raqqa city, heavily damaging the second floor of the hospital.
- o On 29 November 2014, regime helicopters dropped 2 barrel bombs on a clinic in Kafr Sajna village in Idlib, partly destroying it.
- o On 30 November 2014, regime warplanes launched 5 missiles at a recovery centre also used as a dispensary for vaccines, partly destroying it.

Bridges/water crossings

- o On 3 November 2014, regime forces shelled Syasiya Bridge, which connects northern Deir ez-Zor to the countryside of Deir ez-Zor, seven times. The shelling cracked the columns of the bridge.
- o On 4 November 2014, regime warplanes launched a missile at Mayadien Bridge in Deir ez-Zor, damaging the bridge and two nearby shops.
- o On 28 November 2014, regime warplanes launched a missile at the water crossing connecting Bolail and Sahba villages in Deir ez-Zor, killing 5 people and injuring 6 others.

Ambulances

- o On 18 November 2014, an explosive cylinder exploded near an ambulance in Souran, Aleppo, killing one of the paramedics and injuring the driver and burning the ambulance.
- o On 18 November 2014, regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on an ambulance of Kafr Hamra Hospital, in Kafr Hamra, Aleppo, killing 16 people, including 5 children, 3 women and a paramedic. The ambulance was burned and a number of cars were damaged.

Water stations

- o On 23 November 2014, ISIS detonated a car bomb near a purification plant in Midan village, Hasakeh, heavily damaging the plant.

Power plants

- o On 19 November 2014, regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on a power plant in the Shaar neighbourhood of Aleppo, burning the plant and causing a power outage in the area.

Bakeries

- o On 17 November 2014, regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb near the reserve bakery in Al Bab city, Aleppo.

Museums and ancient sites

- o On 25 November 2014, regime warplanes targeted the national museum in Raqqa, injuring 6 people and partly destroying the museum.

Silos

- o On 9 November 2014, regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the grain silos in Al Bab city, Aleppo, causing material damages to the silos.
- 379 media activists were killed between March 2011 and the end of November 2014. According to the Syrian Network for Human Rights, in November the Syrian regime killed 6 media activists, including one who died under torture in a Syrian regime detention centre, and injured 5 others.
- 4 journalists were killed in Dar`a in December 2014. Mahraan al-Deeri of Al Jazeera Media Network was killed in 11 December 2014 by regime fire as he was covering battles in Sheikh Miskeen; 3 other journalists from Orient Network were targeted and killed by regime forces on 8 December 2014 in Dar`a.
- There have been 4 kidnappings of media activists by regime forces, 1 by Jabhat al-Nusra and 1 by an unidentified armed group in November 2014. There have also been 3 injuries of media activists in November, all by regime forces.

- (ii) **Paragraphs 8 and 10:** *All parties must immediately cease attacks against medical facilities and other civilian objects and medical personnel, and prioritize the fullest possible medical attention for those in need.*

Violation: Syrian regime attacks on medical buildings and medical staff

- The Syrian Network for Human Rights documented the regime's killing of 5 medical staff in November 2014, including 1 doctor who was killed under torture; 2 nurses and 2 medics; 4 other medics, including a woman, were killed by an unidentified group.
- Those killed by the regime included:
 - Dua Nasa, a female nurse from the Al Waer neighbourhood in Homs, was killed on 3 November 2014 by a surface-to-surface missile that fell on the clinic where she was working in Al Waer neighborhood.
 - Samira Ahmad al-Sahli, a 53-year-old female nurse from the Yarmouk camp, who was arrested by Syrian regime forces on 11 June 2014 because

of her medical work. Her family learned that she was tortured to death inside regime detention centres on 8 November 2014.

- S.A., a paramedic working at Kafr Hamra Hospital in Aleppo, who was killed on 18 November 2014, when Syrian regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the ambulance in which he travelled.
 - Ghaleb Abu Zneid, Palestinian-Syrian from Yarmouk camp, who was arrested 16 months ago and died on 24 November 2014 under torture inside regime detention centres.
 - Salah Suliman Ayyash, a 33-year-old driver for Al Ihya medical organization in Rif Dimashq, was killed by regime forces as he tried to enter Zibdeen on 27 November 2014.
- On 27 November 2014, Syrian regime forces killed ambulance driver Salah Iyash (Abu Mohammad) in Zebdin in eastern Ghouta as he was en route to aid the injured.
 - On 8 December 2014, Syrian regime forces shelled Ziad al-Bikai Hospital in Khan al-Sheikh in western Ghouta, seriously wounding 3 members of the medical staff and greatly damaging the hospital.

(iii) **Paragraphs 5-7:** *All parties must immediately lift sieges of populated areas and allow unrestricted delivery of humanitarian aid. All parties must promptly allow United Nations humanitarian agencies and partners safe and unhindered access to populations in need.*

- The besieged areas remain the most in need. Despite the Security Council's adoption of resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014), no humanitarian organizations or United Nations agencies have been able to access these areas and distribute life-saving assistance there. Assistance continues to be distributed in border and non-besieged areas. Areas under regime siege continue to experience daily bombardment resulting in civilian massacres, without any media coverage or attention.

Violation: Syrian regime sieges in eastern Ghouta, Darayya, Hajr Aswad and Tadamun

- The Syrian regime continues its complete siege of eastern Ghouta, Darayya, Hajr Aswad and Tadamun. The regime is preventing movement of civilians and life-saving aid like food, medicine, baby milk, medical goods and fuel in or out of these besieged areas. The regime is preventing all agencies and humanitarian organizations from entering these areas and continues to bombard these areas on a daily basis, using a wide array of munitions, including missiles and barrel bombs.
- Due to the siege, health conditions have worsened in the besieged areas, resulting in the spread of disease and illness, particularly liver infection, typhoid fever, measles and tuberculosis. As the regime is preventing medical aid from entering these areas, residents' immune systems have weakened at alarming rates.
- The besieged areas are under daily bombardment. The Syrian regime drops barrel bombs, artillery shells and mortar shells on gathering areas and

residential locations, resulting in high numbers of injuries. Due to the Syrian regime's siege, much of the medical aid needed to treat the injured is not available, resulting in many of the injured dying.

- There has been a significant decrease in food items in the besieged areas, particularly infant milk. As a result, the price of infant milk has increased approximately ten fold, making it unattainable for many families. This has resulted in severe malnutrition among infants.
- Mukhayim al-Wafideen, the only entry and exit point to eastern Ghouta, is closed to all civilians, preventing them from leaving the area to even obtain daily nourishment. If residents attempt to leave besieged eastern Ghouta, Syrian regime snipers directly target them, leading each month to dozens of civilian deaths.
- As a result of the closing of the Mukhayim al-Wafideen crossing point, only a limited number of traders can enter or exit eastern Ghouta, which has caused food prices to quadruple or quintuple. For example, while the price of a kilo of sugar is 50 Syrian pounds in Damascus, it is 250 pounds in eastern Ghouta. After the regime closed the Mukhayim al-Wafideen crossing point, the price increased to approximately 2,500 Syrian pounds.

Violation: Syrian regime siege on the Al Waer neighbourhood in Homs

- The Syrian regime continues to besiege the Al Waer neighbourhood, west of Homs city. It has 15,000 displaced families. The neighbourhood is surrounded by regime-controlled military checkpoints. Since its siege in 2013, the regime has allowed in very limited humanitarian assistance.

(iv) **Paragraph 11:** *All parties must immediately end arbitrary detention and torture of civilians in Syria, notably in prisons and detention facilities, as well as the kidnappings, abductions and forced disappearances, and must immediately release all arbitrarily detained persons.*

- According to the Syrian Network for Human Rights, regime forces arbitrarily arrested 209 individuals in November 2014, including 11 women. The greatest number of arbitrary arrests took place in Hama, Ladhqiyyah and Homs. Extremist factions arbitrarily arrested 5 individuals. Only 48 individuals were released from regime prisons and security branches in November 2014. Extremist groups released 3 individuals. The Syrian Network for Human Rights could not fully document these cases, as they are banned and pursued by regime forces and extremist groups.
- In November 2014, 11 individuals were kidnapped in regime-controlled areas and 4 in areas controlled by extremist groups.
- According to the Syrian Network for Human Rights, 237 victims died under torture inside official and unofficial detention centres in Syria in November 2014. Regime forces killed 231 individuals, extremists killed 3 and armed groups killed 2. Homs had the highest number of victims, totaling 92, and Damascus and its countryside had the second-highest number of victims, totaling 55. Regime forces informed residents of Qaryatein, Mahien and Hwarien villages in Homs that 70 people had died inside its prisons after it agreed to a prisoner exchange with one of the armed groups there. The dead

included: 4 teachers, 1 doctor, 1 nurse, 3 university students, 1 engineer, 1 athlete, 1 lawyer, 1 media activist, 1 woman and 2 individuals from the same family. Among those who died under torture were:

- o Ali Ibrahim Muslim: a 38-year-old teacher from Aleppo. He was arrested at the Ramousa checkpoint on 6 November 2014, and his family was informed by the Air Force Intelligence branch of his death two days later, on 8 November 2014.
- o Ibrahim Mohammad Balla: a 60-year-old teacher from Muadamiya. He was arrested by the Air Force Intelligence branch on 6 January 2012, and his body was delivered to his family on 22 November 2014.
- o Baher Abdulkarim al-Wayyes: a 29-year-old teacher from Deir ez-Zor. He was arrested by regime forces 9 months earlier, and on 24 November 2014 his family learned of his death under torture inside the Palestine branch in Damascus.
- o Samer al-Najjar: a 25-year-old teacher from Rif Dimashq. He was arrested 2 years ago, and his family learned of his death inside a Syrian regime detention centre on 25 November 2014.
- o Ghaleb Abu Zaid: a doctor from Yarmouk camp. He was arrested by regime forces 16 months ago and killed under torture inside a regime prison on 24 November 2014.
- o Samira Ahmad al-Sahli: a 53-year-old nurse from Yarmouk camp, married with 4 children. She was arrested on 11 June 2014, and her family learned that she died under torture inside a regime detention centre on 8 November 2014.
- o Majed Abdulrahman Mohammad Hamidou: a 48-year-old lawyer from Aleppo, married with 4 children. He died under torture inside the Aleppo Air Force Intelligence branch on 23 November 2014.
- o Ahmad Mustafa al-Tamuer: a 33-year-old weightlifting champion from Hama who was arrested by the regime 3 years ago. His family learned that he had died under torture inside Sydnaya Prison on 5 November 2014.
- o Fatima Satouf al-Kamel: a 55-year-old woman who was arrested by the Syrian regime in late 2013. Her family learned that she had died under torture inside one of the Syrian regime detention centres on 28 November 2014.
- o Emad Khalifa: a 60-year-old Palestinian Syrian from Yarmouk camp. He was arrested by the regime 6 months ago, and his family learned that he had died under torture on 22 November 2014 inside one of the Syrian regime detention centres.