



## Security Council

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### **Identical letters dated 24 June 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

At a briefing held by the Security Council on 28 May 2019 on the situation in the Middle East, the Permanent Representative of the Syrian regime to the United Nations used the opportunity given to him to participate in that important session to spread lies about my country, which did not take part in the session.

The briefing was about the humanitarian situation in Syria, which has seen a catastrophic decline as a result of the barbaric policies of the Syrian regime. It discussed the grave situation in Idlib, which threatens to become a new humanitarian disaster due to the regime's wilful disregard for international humanitarian law as it continues to bomb residential neighbourhoods and civilian markets indiscriminately. The regime's destruction of dozens of hospitals and schools rises to the level of a full-fledged war crime. The representative of the Syrian regime could have used his statement to dispel grave concerns about the inviolability of medical facilities and health-care workers, the safety of journalists and humanitarian access to Rukban camp. Instead, in an attempt to divert attention from those crimes, he chose to use lies to attack States that are known for their respect for international law, international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and are trying to deliver humanitarian assistance to those in need and advance an agenda of accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Syria.

These attempts to tarnish my country's reputation are just part of the Syrian representative's distortion of the facts. He portrays heroic humanitarian aid workers as mercenary terrorists. He accuses civilian survivors of his own regime's terrorism of being actors in Hollywood-style movies. However, this distortion of the facts is fooling no one, especially when it comes from the representative of a regime that has lost any shred of legitimacy or credibility. That the representative of the Syrian regime should mock the principles of international humanitarian law, human rights, freedom of the press and humanitarian assistance right before the eyes of the Security Council is incompatible with the lofty status of the Council and the gravity of the humanitarian issue that it was considering.

The State of Qatar categorically rejects the lies contained in the statement of the representative of the Syrian regime. It deplores his mockery of international humanitarian law and the consequences thereof. It again stresses that such efforts will not divert Qatar from fulfilling its legal and humanitarian responsibilities and continuing to play a constructive and effective role in providing assistance to the Syrian people and finding a solution to the Syrian crisis, the prolongation of which is a threat to peace, security and stability in our region and around the world. Qatar will



continue to play that role even as the regime insists on security and military solutions while rejecting a political solution that would realize the aspirations of the Syrian people and maintain the unity and stability of Syria in accordance with the Geneva communiqué and Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#).

Given the continued use by the representative of the Syrian regime of Security Council meetings as a means to disseminate lies and make a mockery of international law, the Council should take a firm stand towards the Syrian regime and enforcement of the Council's resolutions on the situation in Syria.

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

(Signed) Alya Ahmed Saif **Al-Thani**  
Permanent Representative

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