



## Security Council

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### **Identical letters dated 2 January 2020 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**

On instructions from my Government, and further to our previous letters regarding the Turkish regime's ongoing violations and attacks against the sovereignty and territorial integrity the Syrian Arab Republic, its continued violations of the principles of international law and the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, and its open support for terrorism, which poses a threat to regional and international peace and security, and in response to the letter from the permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations ([S/2019/958](#)), I should like to draw your attention to the following:

The Turkish regime, which is sponsoring terrorism in my country Syria and other States in the region, is continuing to spread lies in an effort to justify its military attacks against the Syrian Arab Republic. It is abusing articles of the Charter of the United Nations, most notably article 51, which in no way can be construed as applicable to the hostile military actions being carried out by the Turkish regime against Syria. As of today, that regime is occupying parts of the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic. It is supporting and financing terrorism and facilitating training, and has allowed tens of thousands of foreign terrorist fighters from more than 100 States into Syria (that is according to figures and information from the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team). That regime has been and continues to be implicated in the theft and looting of Syria oil, antiquities and factories. Now, before the eyes of the international community, it is transferring Syrian and foreign terrorist fighters from Idlib through Turkey to Libya, with a view to escalating conflict and undermining stability in that sisterly country.

The Syrian Arab Republic stresses that ensuring the national security of any one country cannot be done on the basis of aggression against the sovereignty of another country. No pretext used in that regard can change the fact that the actions being taken by the Turkish regime in violation of Syrian sovereignty amount to aggression, invasion and occupation. That requires the Security Council to assume its responsibilities for the maintenance of international peace and security, deter the aggressor, and compel it to cease its aggression and withdraw its forces back to the internationally recognized border. The Council must put an end to the actions being taken by the terrorist Turkish regime inside Syrian territory intended to establish the fact of the occupation and impose demographic and social changes on the ground, all of which have exposed the aggressive and expansionist agenda of the ruling regime in Ankara with respect to the Syrian Arab Republic and other States of the region.



My country Syria rejects the lies appearing in the letter of the representative of the terrorist Erdoğan regime (S/2019/958). It stresses that the de-escalation agreements agreed to by the Turkish regime in the Astana and Sochi understandings do not extend to armed terrorist groups listed by the Security Council, above all the Nusrah Front, also known as the Levant Liberation Organization, or any other groups affiliated with that organization. Those de-escalation agreements were intended to deal with particular military situations on the ground in order to promote stability and eliminate listed terrorist entities. Those agreements were therefore time-bound and confined to particular objectives, most of which have not been achieved, especially in and around Idlib, owing to the insistence of the Turkish regime to date on reneging on commitments made to the Russian and Iranian guarantors. That regime continues to support and direct the activities of the terrorist Nusrah Front, which continues to coordinate and lead various terrorist activities by armed groups in and around Idlib, and has turned Idlib into a launchpad for aggression against Syrians in nearby cities and towns, particularly Aleppo, Hama and Ladhqiyyah.

As for what is stated in the Turkish regime's letter about the Geneva process, it merely constitutes further proof that the governing regime in Turkey today is beyond international legitimacy. It still fails to comprehend or grasp that the Secretary-General has sent a Special Envoy to facilitate a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political process free of outside interference, especially from a hostile party whose hands are stained with the blood of Syrians because of its support for terrorism, direct military aggression against the Syrian Arab Republic and occupation of parts of Syrian territory.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic emphasizes that it will not tolerate the hostile Turkish regime's use of the de-escalation agreements to consolidate its occupation and attack the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of the Syrian Arab Republic. The Syrian Government will continue to carry out its national and constitutional duties to defend the country's security and stability by eliminating all manifestations of terrorism wherever they may appear, confronting foreign military occupation, and acting to terminate such occupation in accordance with internationally recognized means, the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, and the principles of international law.

Lastly, we stress that it is high time for the international community to stand against the atrocities being perpetrated by the Turkish regime against the Syrian Arab Republic and several other States in the region, which are a continuation of atrocities committed by the Ottoman Sultanate. What the President of that terrorist, occupying and aggressive regime is doing continues to pose a threat a direct threat to international peace and security and stability in the region and the world. He must be held accountable for his reckless and aggressive behaviour.

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

*(Signed)* **Bashar Ja'afari**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative