



Security Council

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Identical letters dated 26 February 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, I should like to convey to you the position of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the sixty-fifth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions [2139 \(2014\)](#), [2165 \(2014\)](#), [2191 \(2014\)](#), [2258 \(2015\)](#), [2332 \(2016\)](#), [2393 \(2017\)](#), [2401 \(2018\)](#), [2449 \(2018\)](#) and [2504 \(2020\)](#) (S/2020/141).

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again expresses its regret that the authors of the reports by the Secretary-General and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) continue to take a negative and politicized approach to the Syrian Arab Republic and its institutions. They continue to commit the same errors, deviating drastically from their mandates, and to wilfully disregard the observations and concerns expressed by the Syrian Arab Republic about previous reports by the Secretariat.

With the issuance of the sixty-fifth the report on the humanitarian situation in the Syria, the authors must answer the following questions: Why deliberately turn a blind eye to the real cause of the Syrian people's suffering, which has always been the actions of the armed terrorist groups? Why insist on falsely accusing the Syrian Government of failing to respond to the needs of civilians? Why use the report to deflect attention from the efforts of the Syrian Arab Republic and its allies to combat terrorism and turn it into a platform for broadcasting the policies and agendas of certain members in the Security Council and their proxies in the region in a way that discredits the United Nations as a whole? Why ignore the Syrian Government's efforts to deliver humanitarian aid to millions of people in need? Why downplay the fact that the armed terrorist groups and forces of the Turkish regime have committed crimes against civilians and deliberately destroyed civilian infrastructure? Why slavishly echo the rantings of certain Western countries about the situation in one region or another in Syria, the latest being Idlib Governorate? Why spread spurious claims that the Syrian Arab Army and its allies are bombing civilian targets and facilities there? And why does all of this occur whenever the Syrian Arab Army makes headway against the armed terrorist groups?

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic wishes, once again, to draw attention to the following points:

- The city of Idlib and some of the surrounding areas are controlled by the Levant Liberation Organization, aka the Nusra Front, which is designated in the Security Council list of terrorist organizations and entities as a branch of Al-Qaida in Syria.



- That terrorist group has exploited the Turkish regime's disregard for its obligations under the de-escalation agreement and the Astana and Sochi memorandums of understanding in order to seize control of Idlib Governorate and commit the most heinous crimes against its population.
- The Syrian Arab Army and its allies are conducting operations in response to the systematic crimes committed by the Levant Liberation Organization against civilians in the city and in nearby villages and towns.
- The terrorist Levant Liberation Organization, which controls the city of Idlib, counts among its ranks tens of thousands of foreign terrorist fighters sent from around the world to my country by the Governments of certain States, which refuse to take them back and condone their transfer by the Erdoğan regime to Turkey and certain regions in the Horn of Africa.
- The Levant Liberation Organization is using the city's hundreds of thousands of civilians as human shields, committing the most heinous and barbaric crimes against them and spreading death and destruction. It has taken over civilian facilities, including hospitals and schools, and turned them into barracks and centres for the detention, torture and murder of anyone who opposes its extremist takfirist ideology. It has been proved that it has confiscated most of the humanitarian aid reaching the Governorate, including cross-border aid delivered under Security Council resolution [2165 \(2014\)](#).
- The crimes committed by this terrorist organization are not confined to the areas under its control. They also extend to other areas with civilian populations in nearby villages and towns, which they have subjected to indiscriminate shelling and rocket attacks that have claimed dozens of civilian lives, most of them women and children.
- The Syrian Government cherishes the lives of its people and is doing all in its power to ensure their security and safety.
- The Syrian Government is exercising its sovereign and constitutional right to defend its territory and people, a right enshrined in international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the gamut of Security Council resolutions on combating terrorism.
- The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms that, in order to end the suffering of its people, the hypocrisy and politicization of the situation must cease, investment in terrorism must stop and a bare minimum must be done to deliver humanitarian aid to those affected by the activities of the armed terrorist groups and acts of aggression by the Turkish regime.

The Syrian Arab Republic regrets that the authors of the report, echoing the line taken by certain Western countries, mistakenly espouse cross-border aid, the ineffectiveness of which has been demonstrated and the delivery of which to those in need cannot be guaranteed. In that regard, it has agreed to the transport of aid across contact lines to people in need in areas of the country, on condition that it in fact reach those people and not fall into the hands of any armed terrorist groups or illegal political organizations, and that it be distributed under the supervision of the Syrian authorities, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and partners from the relevant United Nations agencies.

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

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