



## Security Council

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### Letter dated 23 March 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing in response to the letter dated 10 March 2020 by the Permanent Representative of Egypt (S/2020/196, annex), which is an attempt to distract attention from the malicious efforts of the Egyptian Government and its sponsors to overthrow the United Nations-backed, legitimate Government of Libya and to set up another authoritarian military regime in the region.

Dissemination of fake news and false information to hide facts and manipulate public opinion is in the toolbox of authoritarian regimes and repressive States. Hence it is not surprising, yet still regrettable, that the Government of Egypt resorts to this method, in its offensive against democracy and international legitimacy.

To set the record straight, I would like to remind you that Turkey, from the onset, has supported a Libyan-led, comprehensive and inclusive political settlement in Libya, in line with relevant Security Council resolutions. We have backed the efforts of the Security Council and the Secretary-General to uphold the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of Libya, and to establish a lasting, legitimate civilian rule that only answers to the Libyan people. In line with resolution 2259 (2015), Turkey has been assisting the Government of National Accord, upon its request, in responding to threats to Libya's security.

Egypt and its sponsors, on the other hand, continue destabilizing Libya and act in stark contradiction with resolution 2259 (2015), which calls upon all Member States to support the Government of National Accord as the sole legitimate Government of Libya and cease support to and official contact with parallel institutions that claim to be the legitimate authority.

On 8 January 2020, President Erdoğan and President Putin of the Russian Federation called upon all parties in Libya to stop hostilities, declare a sustainable ceasefire and immediately come together at the negotiating table. With the encouragement of Turkey, the legitimate Government of Libya signed the joint ceasefire agreement in Moscow, while the leader of the aggressor militias was advised not to sign it by the representatives of the Government of Egypt and its sponsors and was encouraged to continue its military aggression instead. Needless to say, this has been the primary cause of the further devastation in the country.

Despite these vicious attempts to seek a military solution in Libya, Turkey has intensified its efforts for a peaceful resolution of the conflict together with other responsible international actors, including by participating in the Berlin summit and supporting its conclusions. My country will continue to promote an inclusive, United



Nations-facilitated political solution to the conflict that has brought so much suffering to the people of Libya.

However, all these efforts risk yielding no result unless the Government of Egypt and its sponsors cease their support to the parallel institutions, aggressor militias, mercenaries and terrorist groups. These actions include, but are not limited to, fighting alongside terrorist groups and providing direct military support against the legitimate Government of Libya, funding mercenaries, facilitating indiscriminate attacks on civilians, violations of arms embargo, hosting listed individuals and breaches of the oil embargo. On a number of cases, such as the bombing of the detention center in Tajoura, this support has amounted to war crimes, according to United Nations reports.

A great amount of information about the blatant violations of Security Council resolutions and international law by the Government of Egypt and its financial sponsors is available in the United Nations reports and in open sources. Turkey stands ready to provide further information about these malicious actions.

With all this support, the warlord Hafter, who faces torture accusations in the United States, does not hesitate to shell civilians, recruit child soldiers and force migrants to fight. A recent *New York Times* article “Inside Hafter’s Libya: A Police State with an Islamist Twist” clearly points out that various groups of terrorists, extremists and mercenaries are in a coalition of war criminals with Hafter to topple the United Nations-backed legitimate Government of Libya.

It is high time for the Security Council, while recalling that there can be no legitimate justification for supporting a war criminal like Hafter, to urge the Government of Egypt to cease its violation of resolution [2259 \(2015\)](#), stop its aggression against the legitimate Government of Libya, and respect the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of other States.

Libyan people deserve a democratic, secular and stable country with secure borders and a strong economy, just like the peoples of Syria and Egypt. Peace and stability in the Middle East will remain elusive, as long as the Government of Egypt and its sponsors continue their vicious efforts to export their authoritarian regimes by any means, including supporting war criminals and terrorists, to eliminate any hope for democracy and popular legitimacy.

It is abundantly clear by now that the intention of the Government of Egypt is not to assist in achieving peace and stability in Libya. Otherwise, it would have started by putting pressure on Hafter to stop its offensive against Tripoli and to fully commit to the conclusions of the Berlin summit. Instead, it chooses to support war criminals in blatant violation of Security Council resolutions, while at the same time systematically trying to spread disinformation distorting the real situation on the ground in Libya.

Turkey stands ready to provide further information on the destructive and illegal actions of the Government of Egypt in violation of international law.

I would be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Feridun H. **Sinirlioğlu**  
Permanent Representative