



Security Council

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Identical letters dated 26 April 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 Syrian Arab Republic regarding the sixty-sixth 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/2020/327).

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regrets that the authors of the Secretary-General's reports 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. In the current report, they continue to ignore the concerns expressed by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic over and over again in its responses to previous reports.

The Syrian Government reiterates yet again that the main reason for the suffering of Syrians continues to be the actions of armed terrorist groups and the ongoing support they receive from States that are known to all. That is in addition to the economic terrorism being waged by a handful of States against Syrians through the imposition of "unilateral coercive measures".

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic also reiterates its call for OCHA staff to stop trying to turn the reports of the Secretariat on the humanitarian situation in Syria from United Nations reports into reports that serve the agendas of certain Western countries hostile to Syria and do not take into account the humanitarian situation of Syrians, especially in the light of the global repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for a genuine response to mitigate the effects of the crisis on Syrians. Such an approach is a violation of the principles of humanitarian work and a waste of United Nations efforts and finances, and detracts substantially from the credibility of the United Nations and the objectivity of its reports.

Reading the sixty-sixth report of the Secretariat raises numerous questions that are of concern not only to the Government, but to all Syrians and anyone concerned about the humanitarian situation in Syria. Here are some of those questions and concerns:

- Has the Secretariat failed to notice that addressing the COVID-19 pandemic clearly requires those States that trumpet their concern for the lives of Syrians to desist from their unilateral economic coercive measures, which have affected the lives of all Syrians? Those States should acknowledge the tremendous



efforts made by the Syrian Government despite those sanctions to confront this global threat, instead making sporadic and timid calls to freeze these sanctions that have not yet had any effect because those States insist on continuing to target the Syrian people. Who issued the instructions to the authors of the report to ignore the impact of years of unilateral coercive economic measures against Syria on the capacity of vital sectors to meet the needs and basic requirements of Syrians and mount an effective humanitarian response, including a response to the COVID-19 pandemic?

- Why shy away from naming the party that disrupted services multiple times at the Aluk water plant, which the report notes is the main source of water for about 460,000 people (the total number of users is over a million)? It was none other than the party that has been deliberately violating the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic. Why shy away from naming the parties that have been supporting the armed terrorist groups, which have recently attacked humanitarian workers, killing and injuring many of them (as the report notes in paragraph 6)?
- The Syrian Government's military actions in north-west Syria are a response to attacks perpetrated by armed terrorist groups against civilians and civilian infrastructure with direct support from the Turkish regime, which is supposed to be honouring signed agreements.
- We are compelled to remind you yet again that the United States of America is the main obstacle to the delivery of humanitarian aid to Rukban camp and the main cause of the suffering of its residents. The Syrian Government, in the face of United States policies and out of concern for civilian life and the delivery of humanitarian assistance, continues to work with the Russian Federation to return thousands of the camp's residents to their villages and help them resume their normal lives.
- What is the justification for the insistence of the Secretariat and the authors of the report on ignoring hostile Turkish activities on Syrian territory? Turkey is continuing to violate of the most basic rules of international law, including by seizing large tracts of land, just as is being done by the "non-State armed groups" referred to in paragraph 13 of the report.
- Why do the authors of the report persist in relying on false information, dubious sources and fabricated news in several paragraphs of the report? What is the purpose of the ongoing attempts to tarnish the image of the Syrian Government based on such information? A professional and objective assessment of the humanitarian situation in Syria depends on the extent to which the Secretariat uses qualified humanitarian professionals who follow genuine and non-politicized humanitarian practice and are not subject to Western pressure.
- The Syrian Government deplores the continued use by the report's authors of outdated terms such as "hard-to-reach areas", and the claim that the Syrian Government does not grant approvals to access those areas. The reality is that OCHA officials are deliberately scaling back the United Nations response to the needs of Syrians in areas liberated from terrorism. Those are the very areas which, prior to their liberation, were considered to be high priority and had campaigns and appeals for humanitarian access launched on their behalf.
- The Syrian Government rejects the Secretariat's continued promotion of cross-border assistance, and stresses that such assistance is ineffective. The Syrian Government reiterates that the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism remains unable to verify that such assistance reaches its rightful Syrian civilian recipients.

The Syrian Government reiterates that the Security Council should stop issuing these monthly reports. They serve no purpose other than to provide a platform for certain States hostile to Syria to propagandize against and defame the Syrian State. They waste financial and human resources that could be used to provide actual assistance, not imaginary assistance, to the Syrian people. These monthly reports should be replaced by semi-annual reports that are written in professional and credible manner.

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
