



Security Council

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Identical letters dated 28 June 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 wish to convey to you the position of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the sixty-seventh 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/2020/576).

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms its position concerning the delivery of cross-border assistance, in particular with regard to the following:

- Attempts by certain countries to extend the validity of the provisions of Security Council resolution [2165 \(2014\)](#) are a reflection of the politicized approach adopted by them since the outbreak of the terrorist war to which Syria has been subjected. Their primary aim is to violate Syrian sovereignty in a clear breach of the provisions of General Assembly resolution [46/182](#) and to provide various types of assistance to the armed terrorist groups that those countries support. Given the developments on the ground and the fact that the Syrian Government has re-established control over most of the areas previously in the hands of those armed terrorist groups and, as repeatedly stated in the report, that the Government has consented to the delivery of assistance in all areas, the flimsy arguments bandied about by those States for extending the validity of that resolution's provisions are baseless. Rather than accepting such pretexts, the Secretariat should now be working earnestly to give effect to the consent granted by the Syrian Government and deliver assistance to all areas.
- In years past, the provisions of resolution [2165 \(2014\)](#) have not been adhered to, especially with regard to guarantees of transparency in cross-border assistance operations or respect for the principles of humanitarian work.
- Receiving the consent of the Government of Syria before humanitarian assistance crosses the country's borders is one of the guiding principles set out in General Assembly resolution [46/182](#). It is not enough just to inform the Government. The notifications sent to the Syrian Government still do not meet the minimum standard of credibility with regard to figures, data, number of beneficiaries and information on the parties that receive and distribute assistance to civilian beneficiaries.
- The United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic has to date been quite incapable of verifying whether cross-border assistance has



reached its intended beneficiaries. The secrecy that characterizes the dealings of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs with the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism and the agencies operating on the ground raises many questions and doubts.

- The bulk of cross-border assistance continues to fall into the hands of armed terrorist groups rather than going to those in need. The benefit of such assistance has been and remains limited compared with assistance distributed from inside the Syrian Arab Republic.

As for the current report, the Secretariat needs to answer the following questions as a matter of urgency:

- Why does the Secretariat maintain, in spite of the efforts of the Syrian Government to facilitate the delivery of assistance to its intended beneficiaries, that cross-border delivery of assistance must continue?
- Why does it deny that the food insecurity of millions of Syrians is primarily caused by the unilateral coercive measures imposed on the Syrian people, the cruel ferocity of which the United States recently ramped up, with no regard for the country's suffering, especially now that it must deal with the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic?
- Why does it deny that the suffering of millions in areas outside the control of the State is caused by the actions of armed terrorist groups, as recorded in several places in the report?
- Why does it fail to mention the acts of brutality carried out by the Turkish occupation forces against millions of Syrians?
- Why does it repeatedly deny that the suffering of the people living in Rukban stems from the actions of the armed terrorist faction operating in the region, which is directly backed by the United States of America, and from the repeated failure of that country to live up to its commitments and promises to evacuate the camp and return its inhabitants to their homes?
- Why does the Secretariat shrink from acknowledging that it is the armed terrorist groups that commit the most egregious crimes and violate the principles of international law, instead talking about "the parties to the conflict"?
- Why does it continue to make baseless accusations, based on specious and dubious sources, against the Syrian Government?
- Why does it choose to ignore that the Syrian Government, by its actions in certain areas, is exercising its constitutional right to protect Syrians from the acts of armed terrorist groups, which are described in detail in the report, and instead criticize the Government?
- Why does it continue to refer to armed terrorist groups as "opposition forces"?
- Why has it been afraid to acknowledge that the Turkish occupation authorities are to blame for the Syrian Government not giving its approval to send a humanitarian aid convoy to Atarib?

What is especially galling is that the Syrian Government has maintained from the beginning of the terrorist war that was foisted upon it that armed terrorist groups are using schools, hospitals and civilian infrastructure as bases from which to conduct terrorist operations and target civilians with all manner of weapons. The Secretariat has consistently contested this fact. It has even gone so far as to deliberately and falsely accuse the Syrian Government of targeting those bases. And yet today we find,

in paragraph 26 of the report, an admission that the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces have stationed armed fighters inside schools!

In conclusion, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms that stopping the suffering of Syrians requires an end to hypocrisy and politicization, to investment in terrorism and to the unilateral coercive measures imposed on the Syrian people. It also requires that a minimum of humanitarian assistance be sent to those who have suffered at the hands of the armed terrorist groups and through the acts of aggression by the Turkish regime and all the other international parties operating illegally on Syrian soil.

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
