General Assembly

Seventy-fifth session
Agenda item 8
General debate

Letter dated 6 October 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you concerning the statement made by the representative of the Syrian regime during the general debate of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, on 26 September 2020.

Turkey rejects the Syrian regime's delusional statement in its entirety. It is shameful and unacceptable that the murderous Syrian regime, which lost its legitimacy long ago, continues to misuse the General Assembly general debate to distort facts and divert attention from the enormous destruction and human suffering it has caused in Syria. The Syrian regime is responsible for the death, mutilation, abduction, starvation and enforced disappearance of millions of Syrians.

The regime's crimes against humanity, violations of international humanitarian law and war crimes have been documented in countless United Nations reports. This is a regime that has brazenly used chemical weapons, tortured its own people and single-handedly nurtured Daesh by releasing thousands of terrorists from its prisons. It was the tactical cooperation and operational air support of the regime that enabled Daesh's rapid expansion.

A regime that resorts to absolutely any means to prolong its dictatorial grip to power, employing all instruments of force and violence, is not in a position to lecture anybody on counter-terrorism or compliance with international law. A regime that has the blood of thousands of innocent Syrians in its hands, a regime that deliberately targets hospitals, schools and marketplaces can no longer claim to speak on behalf of its people.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8.

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