



Security Council

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Identical letters dated 26 October 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-ninth 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 \(2018\)](#), [2504 \(2020\)](#) and [2533 \(2020\)](#) (S/2020/1031).

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates the concerns that it raised in its responses to previous reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the aforementioned Security Council resolutions. In that connection, it would like to point out that the tone of these reports is becoming increasingly hostile towards the Syrian State. Moreover, the authors of the report ignore the concerns and positions of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the course of events and they continue to reflect the positions of States that are hostile to the Syrian Arab Republic and its people, who are struggling to defeat terrorism supported by States that are now known to all.

Having read the sixty-ninth report of the Secretary-General, the Syrian Government has numerous questions and disapproves of the authors' insistence on drafting contradictory reports for political purposes, in violation of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and international resolutions on humanitarian affairs, including General Assembly resolution [46/182](#). Following are some of those questions and contradictions:

- In more than one paragraph, including paragraph 2 of the key points and paragraph 5, the authors note that the Syrian economy has declined and that the Syrian people continue to feel the impact of the economic crisis across the country. They also note that there have been long queues for bread and fuel, and they raise concerns regarding the lack of livelihood security for Syrian civilians and their capacity to cope during the winter months. However, the authors never mention the reasons why the Syrian people find themselves in that situation, including, inter alia, the fact that certain Western States have brought terrorists from around the globe to Syria in order to undermine the security and stability that the country enjoyed; the unilateral coercive measures, the most recent of which is the Caesar Act, and the economic blockade that certain Western States have imposed on Syria and its people; and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Those who prepared the report should have stressed the need to lift all the sanctions and end the economic blockade that has been imposed on Syria,



particularly in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has decimated countries with healthy and strong economies. What, then, has its impact been on a country that has been waging a war against terrorism for nine years?

- In a number of paragraphs, including paragraph 4 of the key points and paragraphs 17 and 18, that are devoted to developments in north-western Syria, which is referred to as the “de-escalation area”, the authors again indicate erroneously that violations of the ceasefire and air strikes had resulted in the deaths of women and children. In fact, it is the armed terrorist groups, led by the Levant Liberation Organization, which the Security Council has designated as a terrorist organization, that have been killing civilian women and children and destroying infrastructure. In paragraph 21 of the report, the authors acknowledge that “non-State armed groups” in north-western Syria continued to systematically target civilians.
- In paragraph 10 of the report, the authors note that a two-week disruption in operations at the Uluk water station had directly affected at least 460,000 Syrian civilians in that area, and that illness among the local population had increased because they had resorted to using water from alternative and in some cases unsafe sources. However, as usual, the authors fail to mention that the Turkish regime alone is responsible for repeatedly committing that crime, which is tantamount to a war crime and a crime against humanity, and constitutes a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.
- In paragraph 11 of the report, the authors speak of the deteriorating living and health conditions of the Hawl camp residents and note that children have died owing to their poor health, particularly in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. Everyone knows who is responsible for the crimes against humanity that are taking place in that camp. The Syrian Government continues to cooperate with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations to address the situation in the camp.
- In paragraph 14 of the report, the authors note that the residents of Rukban camp live in “harsh conditions”. Although the Syrian Arab Republic concurs with that assessment, it finds it deplorable that the authors fail to mention that the American occupiers are solely responsible for the deteriorating humanitarian and living conditions of the camp’s residents. Moreover, they ignore the effort that the Syrian Government has made, in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, to return majority of the camp’s residents to their towns, villages and homes in Syria.
- The Syrian Arab Republic agrees with the assessment set out in paragraphs 21 and 22 of the report. Indeed, armed groups in the north-western and north-eastern Syria continued to systematically target civilians and to target some humanitarian and health-care services and personnel, as well as media professionals. However, as usual, the authors ignore the reason why those armed groups are strong and active, and they fail to call upon the actor that backs those armed terrorist groups to cease its political, financial and military support.
- In paragraph 25, the authors state, in only a single line, that no incidents of hostilities causing damage to educational facilities had been recorded. This is absolutely untrue, whether in respect of north-western Syria, where armed terrorist groups control the schools that they have not destroyed, or north-eastern Syria, where separatist armed groups have taken control of public schools and turned them into bases from which they launch their military operations. Many United Nations organizations have issued reports documenting that separatist groups have seized dozens of educational facilities

in that area and that those groups continue to deny students access to education, freedom of movement and other fundamental rights.

- In paragraph 27 and subsequent paragraphs, the authors note that humanitarian assistance continued “throughout the Syrian Arab Republic” and speak of the obstacles that prevented access to certain areas, ignoring the fact that the Syrian Government is cooperating with United Nations organizations in distributing such assistance in Government-controlled areas, and that the main cause of the difficulties are the actions of the armed terrorist groups.
- Following the adoption by the Security Council of its resolution [2533 \(2020\)](#), it is clear to see that various paragraphs of the report under consideration are being used to promote the effectiveness of cross-border assistance. Once again, the authors proffer erroneous justifications for violating the sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic and argue that it is necessary to resume delivery of aid through Bab al-Salam, ignoring the fact that the Syrian Government has repeatedly shown its readiness to deliver humanitarian assistance to beneficiaries from within Syrian territory and that it has done everything it can to achieve that aim, despite the obstruction of armed terrorist groups.
- Following paragraph 46, there is table of statistics on United Nations visa applications showing the number of such applications and their status (approved, rejected or pending). The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates that all the information contained in that table is incorrect and very far from the reality.

The provision of humanitarian assistance to Syrians and efforts to resolve the crisis in Syria must not be influenced by any considerations stemming from the political agendas of the States that manufactured the Syrian crisis and remain the primary cause of Syrians’ pain and suffering. As long as the Secretariat fails to take into account, it will continue to produce the same tiresome reports that are a waste of human and material resources and provide no added value or perceptible benefit.

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