



Security Council

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Identical letters dated 18 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

At a meeting of the Security Council on 25 November 2020 on the situation in the Middle East, the Permanent Representative of the Syrian regime to the United Nations once again used the opportunity given to him to participate in that important session to hurl false and cheap accusations at the State of Qatar, which did not take part in the session. He recycled lies he has peddled on numerous previous occasions, believing that listeners would be fooled by repetition of the lies even though they went against the facts and defied all comprehension and credibility.

There is no basis for the fabrications of the representative of that regime. They are part and parcel of the lies that he has been making up and spreading for nearly 10 years about a State friendly to the Syrian people and about anyone else who repudiates the terrible crimes committed by the regime against its innocent citizens. Since the Syrian people took to the streets in 2011 in peaceful demonstrations to demand the most basic rights recognized by all legal systems, the regime and its militias have practiced State terrorism, including launching barrel bombs, poison gas and chemical weapons against civilians, using siege and starvation as a weapons of war, committing murder and torture in detention facilities, and perpetrating some of the best documented crimes in history.

Among these war crimes and crimes against humanity, we shall suffice with mentioning the regime's use of chemical weapons against civilians, which it continued to do repeatedly even after it was forced to join the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction in the wake of the adoption of Security Council resolution [2118 \(2013\)](#). To this day, the regime persists in violating Security Council resolutions that prohibit the use, production, storage or transfer of any chemical weapons. This insistence on using weapons of mass destruction has posed the greatest threat to decades worth of efforts by the international community to strengthen the non-proliferation regime. These crimes have been documented in international reports from the Joint Investigation Mechanism of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations, whose August 2016 and October 2016 reports both concluded that there was sufficient information to determine that regime forces were responsible for the use of chemicals as weapons in three attacks in 2014 and 2015. In its October 2017 report, it showed that the regime was responsible for the use of sarin in 2017. The Investigation and Identification Team of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons also reported that there were reasonable



grounds to believe that the Syrian Arab Republic used chemical weapons in Lataminah in March 2017.

The time has come for the international community and the Security Council not to remain silent about these crimes. Those responsible for the use of chemical weapons must be held accountable, both those who gave the orders and those who carried them out.

Today, the regime continues to defy the international consensus that the crisis should be resolved through peaceful means and continues to obstruct implementation of the provisions of Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#), whose full implementation is the way to resolve the Syrian crisis. It is therefore hardly surprising that the regime's representatives continue to badmouth States that insist on calling for a political solution to the crisis on the basis of the first Geneva communiqué and the provisions of resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#), on upholding international humanitarian and human rights law, and on demanding justice and accountability for all perpetrators of atrocities, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the most serious crimes under international law committed in Syria since 2011.

Here, I reiterate that such cheap and blatant attempts to slander the State of Qatar will not succeed in dissuading it from its firm stand in support of the Syrian people obtaining their legal rights, its commitment to fulfilling its legal and humanitarian responsibilities, and its efforts towards a peaceful solution to the Syrian crisis, whose continuation poses a threat to peace, security and stability in our region and world.

The representatives of the Syrian regime ought to realize that these repeated displays of its lack of regard for the gravity of Security Council sessions held to address the catastrophic humanitarian situation caused by the regime's failed, criminal and repressive policies, and its attempts to turn those meetings into propaganda platforms, will only serve to destroy its last remaining vestiges of credibility and further highlight the need for the international community to take a firm stand against the Syrian regime and enforce Security Council resolutions on the situation in Syria.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated to the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Alya Ahmed Saif **Al-Thani**
Permanent Representative
