



Security Council

Distr.: General
28 January 2021
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 27 January 2021 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

Further to our letters concerning violations committed by the Governments of certain United Nations Member States of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, and on instructions from my Government, I convey to you the following information:

The recent period has seen violations by the Governments of certain Western States who are Member States of the United Nations of the principles of international law, the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, and Security Council resolutions concerning the situation in my country, all of which stress that the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic must be fully respected. Delegations from those Governments have infiltrated the country illegally, without coordinating with the Syrian Government or obtaining prior approval and the required entry visas. They have travelled to areas in north-eastern Syria occupied by United States forces and their proxy separatist militias.

Below is a list of foreign delegations that have entered Syrian territory illegally in the north-east, and via the illegal Saymalka crossing, since 1 June 2020:

- On 1 June 2020, several Western journalists infiltrated Hasakah governorate. They took tours of illegal detention centres run by the so-called Autonomous Administration.
- On 16 June 2020, former United States Ambassador William Roebuck infiltrated the region and met with the leaders of the so-called Autonomous Administration.
- On 21 June 2020, a French delegation infiltrated the Malikiyah area on the pretext of retrieving children of members of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) organization.
- On 24 June 2020, media delegations infiltrated the so-called Industrial High School Prison in Hasakah, which belongs to the so-called Autonomous Administration.
- On 26 June 2020, a crew from the France 24 channel infiltrated the city of Hasakah on the pretext of making a documentary film about detention centres for members of the ISIL terrorist organization and their children in the Hawl camp. The crew consisted of a journalist, two assistants and four camerapersons.



- On 31 August 2020, an American delegation infiltrated aboard a helicopter. It consisted of Zahra Bell, who was described as representative of the United States Department of State in north-eastern Syria, her assistant, and several officials. They met with the separatist so-called Syrian Democratic Forces militias, who are proxies of the United States occupation.
- On 9 September 2020, a British delegation consisting of seven persons infiltrated and held meetings at the Life Stone Resort north-west of Hasakah.
- On 16 September 2020, a British delegation infiltrated, headed by Martin Longden, the so-called British Special Envoy to Syria.
- On 7 October 2020, a Canadian delegation infiltrated, headed by Gregory Galligan, Coordinator for Syria at the Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- On 17 October 2020, a delegation from the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs infiltrated, headed by Per Ornius, the Ministry's Special Envoy for the Syrian file, Thomas Markus, the Ministry's Humanitarian Assistance Officer, and Evin Çetin, adviser to the European Institute for Peace.
- On 27 October 2020, a United States religious delegation infiltrated, consisting of Nadine Maenza, Vice-President of the United States Commission for International Religious Freedom, and Steve Berger, pastor of the evangelical church in the capital of the State of Tennessee.
- On 5 November 2020, European Parliament member Hannah Neumann infiltrated and held meetings in the region.
- On 15 November 2020, a United States delegation infiltrated, headed by David Brownstein, so-called Deputy Special Envoy to Syria, and held a series of meetings with the leaders of the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces, who are proxies of the United States occupation, in the north-west of the city of Hasakah.
- On 23 November 2020, a delegation from the United States Department of State infiltrated and held a number of meetings.
- On 1 December 2020, a delegation from the so-called Syrian National Association infiltrated the city of Qamishli to hold a series of meeting with the so-called Syrian Democratic Council and the so-called Autonomous Administration. The aforementioned association is an organization that was declared in Spain. It includes leftists and dissidents abroad, and has announced its membership in the so-called Syrian Democratic Council.
- On 4 December 2020, a Belgian parliamentary delegation infiltrated and met with the so-called Foreign Office of the so-called Autonomous Administration. The delegation included Members of Parliament George Dalman, Koen Metsu, Philippe Vansteenkiste and Rudi Melek, and Heidi De Pauw, the Chief Executive Office of Child Focus.
- On 15 December 2020, a delegation from the French Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) infiltrated the Hasakah area and visited a detention centre belonging to the separatist so-called Syrian Democratic Forces.
- On 18 December 2020, a German delegation infiltrated, as did a Finnish delegation, for two separate visits to the Qamishli area. They stayed for two days. The Finnish delegation included Jussi Tanner, Special Envoy for Finnish Foreign Ministry Affairs to the United Nations and Antti Bonkonen, Consular Aid Unit Officer. The German delegation included Kurt George Stückel Stückel Fried, Director of Consular Affairs and Immigration of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Manga Klis, head of the Consular Assistance Department.

The two delegations met with officials of the so-called Autonomous Administration.

- On 19 December 2020, a delegation from Austria infiltrated the city of Qamishli. It included Ewa Dziejic, an Austrian Member of Parliament from the Green Party, Reinhold Lopatka, an Austrian Member of Parliament from the conservative Christian People's Party, and Thomas Schmidinger, professor of political science at the University of Vienna. The delegation met with leaders of the so-called Autonomous Administration.
- On 25 December 2020, a Belgian delegation infiltrated Qamishli through the illegal Saymalka crossing and met with the head of the so-called Department of Foreign Relations of the Autonomous Administration.
- On 29 December 2020, a United States media delegation infiltrated the Hasakah area and visited a hospital and offices belonging to the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces, which is a proxy of the American occupation in north-eastern Hasakah.
- On 8 January 2021, a European delegation infiltrated through the illegal Saymalka crossing and met with Fener al-Kait, so-called Co-Head of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Autonomous Administration, in the presence of a representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
- On 14 January 2021, a French delegation infiltrated, headed by E. Chevalier, Director of the Crisis and Support Centre of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It entered areas controlled by the so-called Autonomous Administration and signed agreements with that illegitimate entity.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic condemns these violations and irresponsible actions, which violate international law, the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and Security Council resolution 2254. They also violate the principles of international engagement, which require prior notification and coordination with the Government of the country concerned and prior approval for any visits or delegations.

Syria stresses that these serious violations demonstrate a lack of respect on the part of the aforementioned States for international law and the relevant Security Council resolutions, all of which stress that the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Syria must be respected.

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