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The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Seventy-eighth year

Identical letters dated 4 October 2023 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, and further to our letters regarding the countless terrorist crimes repeatedly committed by the separatist Syrian Democratic Forces militia, which is an agent of the occupying American forces in the north-east of the Syrian Arab Republic, I should like to convey to you the following:

The separatist Syrian Democratic Forces militia, which is supported by the occupying American forces, used drones to bombard the Mihqan water station, which is situated on the banks of the Euphrates River in Dayr al-Zawr Governorate, causing it to cease operation and depriving more than 20,000 civilians of the drinking water that it provides.

The Syrian Democratic Forces terrorist militia also attacked Quriyah al-Zawbah water station, using drones to bombard it intensively. That water station, which is located in the eastern countryside of Dayr al-Zawr Governorate, provides drinking water to nearly 18,000 persons. Teams from the competent Syrian State institutions were unable to assess the damage because a sniper belonging to the aforementioned militia would fire at anyone moving about in the area of the station.

The Syrian Arab Republic condemns in the strongest terms the crimes of the Syrian Democratic Forces terrorist militia and its sponsors. It calls upon the United Nations to condemn those attacks and take action in order to enable technical teams from the Public Authority for Drinking Water to reach the Mihqan and Quriyah al-Zawbah water stations, so that they can repair them and put them back into sustained operation without delay. Doing so would prevent the use of water as a weapon to pressure the people of Dayr al-Zawr Governorate, and it would also ensure their access to drinking water in a fair and non-discriminatory manner.

The Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms that depriving Syrian civilians of water constitutes a war crime and a grave violation of human rights. The only solution that will end the suffering of Syrian civilians in the north-east of the country is to end the illegal presence of American forces, put a stop to the crimes being committed by those forces and their surrogate separatist militias and terrorist groups, and restore the



authority of the State and the rule of law throughout the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic.

I should be grateful if the present letters could be issued as a document of the of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bassam **Sabbagh**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
