



Security Council

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Identical letters dated 11 March 2025 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 transmit herewith the following information, which is contained in a document circulated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates to diplomatic missions and offices of international organizations concerning recent developments in the coastal region of Syria:

On the evening of Thursday, 6 March 2025, an armed group consisting of remnants of the previous regime, backed by foreign parties, carried out a violent attack on Syrian security forces in the coastal region. A massacre ensued in which 15 Government soldiers were killed. The insurgents temporarily seized control of the civil administration buildings and surrounded six hospitals, endangering the lives of civilians and curtailing access to basic healthcare. Security guards and Government soldiers alike were killed.

In response, the Syrian Ministry of Defence and Ministry of the Interior rallied forces to respond to the attacks and restore order. However, while deploying to Ladhqiyah, the Government forces came under repeated ambush from militias of the former regime. Civilians who were travelling along the same road were also targeted. Some people were reportedly killed in their cars solely because they had Idlib licence plates.

The Syrian people have overwhelmingly rejected these attempts to undermine stability. On Thursday and Friday, they demonstrated in several cities and expressed their support for the Government and its efforts to maintain stability. A large number of volunteers sought to join the defence forces – an unprecedented response in the region. While recognizing those sentiments, the Government has called on civilians to refrain from bearing arms and emphasized that it can contain the insurgency.

While Government forces were confronting the armed men and freeing the besieged hospitals, some volunteer groups carried out acts of reprisal, including field executions and looting. In a national speech on 7 March 2025, the President of the Republic, Ahmed al-Sharaa, categorically denounced those acts and stressed that the Government was committed to justice and accountability. Accordingly, military operations were temporarily suspended the following day in the main cities in order for the perpetrators of those crimes to be seized and for the looted property to be returned to its legitimate owners. Government officials have announced that justice will take its course for the sake of all the victims.



Despite those endeavours, the militias of the former regime have continued their operations, lying in ambush and targeting Government staff and civilians alike. Many of the armed men have worn civilian attire to avoid imprisonment.

The Government's restraint and its powerful calls for civil peace have been fundamental in preventing the outbreak of a full-scale conflict.

On 9 March 2025, stability was restored in most cities, although clashes have continued in the hinterland, where Government forces continue to confront insurgents.

The situation escalated because of a systematic misinformation campaign led by regional forces, alongside repeated cyberattacks on Government institutions and independent national bodies.

In view of those recent events, the Syrian Government has taken the following measures:

- Military operations were temporarily suspended in the coastal region on the morning of 8 March 2025 in order to allow for outlaws to be identified and prosecuted. Since then, there have been noticeably fewer reports of illegal acts.
- The President has announced the establishment of an independent commission of inquiry to look into all atrocities against civilians and members of Government forces. He has given the commission 30 days to submit its findings.
- A high-level committee has been established to maintain civil peace in the coastal region and liaise with affected communities, address security concerns and promote national reconciliation during this sensitive period.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Koussay **Aldahhak**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
