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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Note verbale dated 4 September 2012 from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

With reference to our previous notes concerning the current situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, and in the context of the transparent and honest approach adopted by the Syrian Arab Republic in presenting the facts about what is happening in Syria, you will find annexed hereto the following:

1. Forty files, each comprising images, medical reports and police records relating to the killing of various citizens, assaults on a number of others, disappearances, and attacks on public property in the Damascus governorate alone during the period 13 April–24 July 2012.

2. A DVD containing images of the bodies of 20 males and females killed by armed terrorist groups in the Dara`a governorate alone during the period 2–16 July 2012, including two girls, Falak Hamud and Lynn al-Faluji, and the women Riham Qadur, Ahad al-Zarzur and Lamya' Abu Su`ayfa', as well as the bodies of two unknown persons, one of which had been burned.

It is apparent from reading these files that many of these persons were killed by gunshots to the head, indicating that they were executed at close range by armed terrorist groups. In this regard, it should be pointed out that armed groups are no longer content only to eliminate people who disagree with their activities and their heretical and destructive ideas, who refuse to close their shops when they declare a strike, who express pro-Syria ideas, or who are members of a certain component of Syrian society; they now also eliminate anyone employed by a governmental entity.

A number of the dead persons were killed by gunshots to the body, which suggests a desire for revenge and an appetite for killing, while others were killed by burning or as a result of injuries from explosive devices deliberately planted by armed individuals in crowded pedestrian or residential areas.

The reports also contain 17 images of charred bodies, one of them bearing signs of a gunshot wound. The competent authorities have thus far been unable to determine the identity of these bodies. It is also pointed out that armed groups have recently begun deliberately to burn the corpses of foreign mercenaries killed fighting alongside them in order to erase their identities and deny their presence, which is no longer a secret to anyone.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic wishes to mention that, through the secretariat of the Human Rights Council, it has already lodged another set of files on Syria's martyrs with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry. It has also transmitted to other human rights mechanisms a set of files on martyrs who were tortured before being killed and on bodies that were burned in order to erase their identities.

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic requests that the present note be disseminated and circulated in the official languages of the United Nations as a document of the twenty-first session of the Human Rights Council.

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic avails itself of this opportunity to express to OHCHR the assurances of its highest consideration.
