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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Identical letters dated 16 December 2013 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 wish to draw your attention to the following information:

On Wednesday, 11 December 2013, in continuation of the massacres and crimes being committed by armed terrorist gangs against innocent civilians in Syrian cities and villages, terrorist gangs affiliated with the Nusra Front and its ally Liwa' al-Islam committed a fresh massacre in the city of Adra al-Ummaliyah, Rif Dimashq, a peaceful area inhabited by both local residents and persons who have been displaced from various nearby areas. According to available information and reports received from persons inside the city, gangs of the Nusra Front, which is affiliated with Al-Qaida, and their allies from the so-called Islamic Front committed a bloody massacre in the city. The attackers killed more than 100 persons, more than half of whom were slaughtered by knife. According to available information, the massacre occurred in an area known as Suq Yawm al-Sabt. An excavator was used to dig a large hole near the athletic club and the victims' bodies were thrown in it. Among the victims that have been identified are the following: Tariq al-Farawi (labourer), Evan al-Farawi (employee), Mahir al-Farawi (entrepreneur), Hasan Makhluif (entrepreneur), George Makhul (doctor), Jihad Makhluif (entrepreneur), the entire family of Iskandar Salih, the doctor on duty at the medical clinic and the town's mayor.

Information also indicates that the terrorists burned the homes of Government workers and killed other Government workers and mutilated their bodies. They also held some others captive in the city's bakery, after they had planted explosives inside it and stolen dozens of tons of flour and wheat that were meant for the city's inhabitants. In addition, the armed terrorist groups abducted a large number of civilians, put them into four trucks and took them to an unknown destination and held some others captives in cellars and used them as human shields.



This massacre — which is the latest in a series of massacres that have been committed by armed terrorist groups, in this case the Nusra Front, an affiliate with Al-Qaida, and its allies, the so-called Islamic Front and Liwa' al-Islam, that have been receiving support from certain well-known States from the outset of the crisis — comes after the Syrian Arab Republic had drawn attention to a great deal of alarming information and evidence in numerous letters addressed to the United Nations. Among the most significant information and evidence that was conveyed concerns the ongoing campaign being conducted by media organizations funded by Saudi Arabia and Qatar to recruit persons to fight against Syria. Wahhabist *takfirist* fatwas that call for strife and killing in Syria have also been issued. Moreover, Ayman al-Zawahiri called on Al-Qaida affiliates to head to Syria in order to undermine the country's security and kill Syrian civilians by committing acts of terrorism and suicide attacks. These attacks are being perpetrated by terrorists from more than 80 countries who have been agitated and brainwashed by extreme Wahhabists fatwas that call on them to commit acts of terrorism and suicide bombings. The Syrian Arab Republic affirms that the most dangerous aspect of these calls for terrorism that are being issued by the Saudi Arabian regime in violation of the relevant international resolutions is the fact that Saudi Arabian officials have impudently boasted in public statements that they are providing support, funds and weapons to members of Al-Qaida and its affiliates, training them in neighbouring countries and dispatching them across the border to commit acts of terrorism and foment sectarian and religious chauvinism in Syria.

In the past week, the Syrian Arab Republic has offered a great deal of evidence that confirms the involvement of the Saudi Arabian regime in providing funds and weapons to terrorists in Syria and the involvement of the Turkish Government in supporting terrorism by providing shelter and training to terrorists from around the world and helping them cross into Syria to commit crimes. It therefore looks to the Security Council to shoulder its responsibility to implement its binding resolutions that prohibit terrorism, incitement to terrorism and supporting those who seek to commit acts of terrorism, including through the provision of shelter and funding.

While underscoring the threat of terrorism and the need for the international community to collaborate in the fight against it, regardless of where or when it occurs, Syria would also like to express its surprise at the blatant double standard being applied by States that, by virtue of their status as permanent members of the Security Council, have a responsibility to refrain from supporting terrorism in Syria. Those States should also play a more effective role in suppressing and holding accountable the armed terrorist groups and the States and entities that support them for the crimes they have committed against Syrian civilians and their blatant violations of the Security Council resolutions concerning counter-terrorism, as well as for their flouting of the international consensus, which is embodied in numerous conventions that prohibit terrorism, incitement to terrorism and supporting those who seek to commit acts of terrorism.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 110, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative