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**Human rights situations requiring
the attention of the Council**

Note verbale dated 17 December 2013 from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

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 its previous notes verbales concerning the current situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Permanent Mission attaches hereto a letter from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to the President of the Human Rights Council and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights concerning a fresh massacre committed in the industrial area of the town of Adra near Damascus by armed terrorist groups affiliated to Al-Qaida.

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



Annex

Letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the Security Council, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the President of the Human Rights Council

Further to the massacres and crimes already committed against peaceful Syrian citizens by terrorist armed groups in many of the country's towns and villages, terrorist bands belonging to "Al-Nusra Front" and their allies in the "Islamic Brigade" committed a fresh massacre on Wednesday, 11 December 2013, in the industrial area of the town of Adra near Damascus, a peaceful neighbourhood inhabited by the local population and migrants from neighbouring districts. According to the available information and reports obtained from local residents, bands belonging to "Al-Nusra Front", which is part of Al-Qaida, and their allies in what is known as the "Islamic Front" perpetrated a brutal massacre against the civilian population of the town. There were more than 100 victims, more than half of whom were slaughtered with knives. According to the information available, the massacre took place in an area known as the "Saturday market", and industrial machinery was used to dig a large pit near the sports club in which to bury the bodies. The slaughtered victims included the following: Tareq al-Farwi (worker), Ifan al-Farwi (official), Maher al-Farwi (self-employed), Hassan Makhoul (self-employed), George Makhoul (doctor), Jihad Makhoul (officer), Ammar Mustafa (self-employed), Muhieddine Barini (self-employed), all members of the family of Malek Iskandar Saleh, as well as the duty officer at the local clinic and the mayor.

The information also indicates that the terrorists set fire to the houses of government officials in the town, killing a number of them and mutilating their bodies. Others were held captive in the local bakery, which had previously been booby-trapped and from which tons of flour and grain stored on behalf of the local population were stolen. The armed terrorist groups also abducted many civilians and conveyed them in four coaches to an unknown location. Other residents were locked in the cellars of their homes and used as human shields.

This massacre is just one in a series of such crimes perpetrated by armed terrorist groups belonging to "Al-Nusra Front", which is part of Al-Qaida, and their allies in the so-called "Islamic Front" and "Islamic Brigade". The groups have been supported by certain well-known States since the beginning of the crisis. The Syrian Arab Republic has drawn attention to many facts and indicators and their associated perils in a number of letters to the United Nations. Foremost among them are the continuous defamation campaigns waged against the Syrian Arab Republic in media outlets financed by Saudi Arabia and Qatar, and the Takfiri Wahhabist legal rulings (fatwas), which foment strife and killings in the Syrian Arab Republic. Moreover, Ayman al-Zawahiri has called on groups affiliated to Al-Qaida to travel to the Syrian Arab Republic in order to destabilize the country and spill Syrian blood through terrorist suicide attacks. Such attacks have been conducted by terrorists brainwashed by extremist Wahhabist fatwas and transported from more than 80 countries. The Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms that the most dangerous aspect of the Saudi Arabian regime's incitement to terrorism, which constitutes a violation of relevant international resolutions, consists in public statements by Saudi officials in which they brazenly boast about the financial support and weapons they supply to Al-Qaida and its allies, and the training they provide to terrorists in countries neighbouring the Syrian Arab Republic before sending them across the border to carry out terrorist operations in the country and to foment sectarian strife.

During the past week, the Syrian Arab Republic has been gathering information which confirms the involvement of the Saudi Arabian regime in supporting terrorism in the country with money and arms, as well as the involvement of the Turkish regime in supporting terrorism by providing shelter and training for terrorists from many different countries and facilitating their entry into Syrian territory to perpetrate criminal acts. The Syrian Arab Republic calls on the Security Council to shoulder its responsibility to implement its binding resolutions, which prohibit terrorism and all forms of support for terrorism, including offers of shelter, financial support and incitement.

The Syrian Arab Republic, while underscoring the dangers of terrorism and the need to redouble international efforts to combat terrorism wherever and whenever it arises, wishes to express its astonishment at the disgraceful double standards displayed by States which, as permanent members of the Security Council, are required to prevent support for terrorism in the Syrian Arabic Republic. They are also required to play a more active role in combating armed terrorist groups and in ensuring that they, and the countries and entities which support them in their crimes against Syrian citizens, are brought to justice for their flagrant violation of Security Council resolutions concerning terrorism and their breach of the international consensus reflected in the numerous treaties that prohibit terrorism as well as support for, funding of and incitement to terrorism.
