

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 17 November 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward to you a letter from the Special Representative of the Syrian Coalition to the United Nations, dated 17 November 2104, concerning the implementation of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) on the elimination of the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could have this and the accompanying letter of the Syrian Coalition circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Y. Halit Çevik
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 17 November 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the people of Syria and the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces, it is my grave responsibility to draw to your attention the Syrian regime's ongoing use of chemical weapons and its continued refusal to declare the full extent of its chemical weapons programme. To ensure that further lives are not lost as a result of these weapons — and that illegal chemical agents do not fall into terrorists' hands — we urge you to enforce Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) and to demand accountability for the Syrian regime's systematic use of chemical weapons.

More than a year after the adoption of resolution 2118 (2013), the Syrian regime continues to use chemical weapons to injure, kill and terrorize innocent civilians. Throughout the past eight months, Syrian regime forces have recurrently deployed toxic chlorine gas in opposition-held areas. According to the fact-finding mission appointed by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to examine the use of chlorine gas as a weapon in Syria, the use of this illegal chemical weapon has been systematic and repeated, with deadly attacks occurring in Talmanes, Al Tamanah and Kafr Zeta in April 2014, and similar incidents likely to have occurred in August 2014. As the independent commission of inquiry confirmed in its eighth report, published on 27 August 2014 ([A/HRC/27/60](#)), the Syrian regime forces bear full responsibility for these crimes.

The use of chemical weapons represents a direct violation of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), as well as customary international humanitarian law and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Yet, the Syrian regime's use of chemical weapons continued unabated. In the past two months alone, regime forces were responsible for chemical weapons attacks in three separate incidents: on 23 and 24 September 2014, when regime forces launched missiles loaded with chlorine gas on Adra in Rif Damascus, killing 15 people and injuring 56 others, including innocent children; on 24, 25, 26 and 27 September, when regime forces launched chlorine gas on Eastern Ghouta; and on 10, 15, 16 and 19 October, when regime forces deployed toxic gases in Daraa and Jobar, Rif Damascus.

The ongoing use of chemical weapons by Syrian regime forces has been made possible by the Syrian regime's refusal to disclose the full extent of its chemical weapons programme. More than one year after the adoption of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), discrepancies in the Syrian regime's declared chemical weapons facilities continue to emerge. Just last month, in October 2014, the Syrian regime admitted that it had failed to disclose four secret chemical weapons facilities — one of which was dedicated to the production of illegal chemical agents. It remains unclear if and how many chemical weapons facilities or chemical agents remain unaccounted for.

The ongoing use of chemical weapons in Syria and the faulty and incomplete chemical weapons declaration issued by the Syrian regime demonstrate that chemical weapons remain a real and dangerous threat to the Syrian people. It is incumbent upon the Security Council to maintain vigilance in ensuring that all of Syria's chemical weapons stockpiles and production facilities are destroyed. The Syrian Coalition and the Free Syrian Army remain committed to the implementation

of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013). We continue to believe that anything less than the full, complete destruction of Syria's illegal chemical weapons programme will leave innocent civilians less secure, and heightens the risk that deadly chemical agents may one day fall into the hands of terrorist groups.

(Signed) **Najib Ghadbian**
Special Representative of the Syrian Coalition to the United Nations
