



## Security Council

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### **Identical letters dated 26 August 2020 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 should like to convey to you the position of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the sixty-eighth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions [2139 \(2014\)](#), [2165 \(2014\)](#), [2191 \(2014\)](#), [2258 \(2015\)](#), [2332 \(2016\)](#), [2393 \(2017\)](#), [2401 \(2018\)](#), [2449 \(2018\)](#), [2504 \(2020\)](#) and [2533 \(2020\)](#) (S/2020/813).

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates the concerns that it raised in its responses to previous reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the aforementioned Security Council resolutions. The Government once again wishes to express its disappointment that the authors of these reports, including the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, continue to take a one-sided approach that is based on presumptions and to rely on sources whose lack of credibility has been demonstrated over the course of the nine years of the Syrian crisis. Moreover, the authors ignore, without any justification, the numerous observations that the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has made and the concerns that it has raised. The Government has time and again refuted the spurious claims and allegations that often find their way into these proforma and politicized reports, which violate international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the Organization's resolutions on humanitarian issues, in particular General Assembly resolution [46/182](#).

Reading the sixty-eighth report of the Secretary-General raises numerous questions that are of concern not only to the Government, but to all Syrians and anyone concerned about the humanitarian situation in Syria. Here are some of those questions and concerns:

- The authors speak of “Operation Peace Spring” and the military operations taking place within the “Operation Peace Spring” area. However, they deliberately fail to mention that, in accordance with international law, principally the Charter of the United Nations, the area should be designated as territory occupied by the Turkish regime, nor do they state that the Turkish regime must end its occupation immediately and unconditionally in order for that area to enjoy peace. In that connection, my country rejects the statement concerning developments in the north-east contained in paragraph 9, because the authors treat the Syrian Government, on the one hand, and armed terrorist groups, separatist militias and the American and Turkish occupiers, on the other, as equals. Such treatment is contrary to the most fundamental principles of



international law, and the Syrian Government has every right to defend its territory against occupying forces, separatist militias and terrorist groups.

- More than once, including, in particular, in paragraph 4, the authors state that the Syrian economy continues to exhibit signs of extreme fragility. In addition, they dwell on the issue of food insecurity. However, they fail to mention that the difficult living conditions of Syrians are attributable primarily to the unilateral coercive economic measures, the latest of which is the Caesar Act, taken by Western countries and the economic blockade that they have imposed on Syria and the Syrian people. It is clear that those measures and the blockade have adversely affected various aspects of life, mainly in the health and energy sectors, above and beyond the repercussions of the terrorist war being waged against my country, Syria, by certain States that continue to support armed terrorist groups and occupy territory of the Syrian Arab Republic.
- In paragraph 5, the authors repeat the same fallacies and incorrect information regarding developments in north-western Syria, to which they refer as the “de-escalation zone”. As usual, the authors mention air strikes and the resulting deaths of women and children, when those women and children were in fact killed by armed terrorist groups, which continue to attack civilians and civilian infrastructure, including hospitals and schools.
- Following the adoption by the Security Council of its resolution [2533 \(2020\)](#), it is clear to see that the report under consideration is being used to more fervently promote the effectiveness of cross-border assistance. Once again, the authors proffer flimsy and illegal justifications for violating the sovereignty of Syria and argue that it is necessary to resume delivery of aid through Bab al-Salam, ignoring the fact that the Syrian Government has repeatedly shown its readiness to deliver humanitarian assistance to beneficiaries from within Syrian territory and that it has done everything it can to achieve that aim, despite the obstruction of armed terrorist groups.
- The Syrian Arab Republic agrees with the statement that the humanitarian situation in Rukban is extremely challenging. However, it once again regrets that the authors ignore what caused the situation, and that is the United States occupation of the region and the camp.
- In paragraph 10 of the report, the authors state that the “Aluk water station was disrupted several times, affecting 460,000 civilians in Hasakah Governorate” and that the United Nations continued to advocate a sustainable agreement between the relevant parties. However, as usual, they fail to mention that responsibility for that heinous crime, which constitutes a war crime and a crime against humanity, rests solely with the Turkish regime.
- My Government has repeatedly expressed its position regarding the Brussels Conference that is mentioned in the report. The authors note that pledges amounting to billions of dollars were made in support of “humanitarian, resilience and development action in the Syrian Arab Republic and the region”. The authors of the report should have realized that what the Syrian people want is for some of the States that participated in that conference to undertake that they will stop supporting armed terrorist groups and separatist militias, end their occupation of certain parts of Syria, halt their unjust economic sanctions, facilitate the return of refugees, not obstruct reconstruction and respect the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Syria and refrain from interfering in its internal affairs.
- As for the situation in Hawl camp, the party that is responsible for the deteriorating situation there is known to all. The Syrian Government, in

cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations, continues to do what is necessary to address the situation of the camp and its residents.

- The authors refer to difficulties in reaching certain areas, but they fail to mention that the primary reason for those difficulties is the conduct of armed terrorist groups.

In conclusion, humanitarian assistance to Syrians and assistance in resolving the Syrian crisis must be provided without any regard to the political agendas of the States that created this crisis and continue to be the primary cause of all the pain and suffering that Syrians are enduring. If the Secretariat fails to take that into account, then it will continue to produce the same type of report and to waste the resources of the United Nations.

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

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

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