



Security Council

Distr.: General
10 September 2019
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 4 September 2019 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-second 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 \(2018\)](#) and [2449 \(2018\)](#) (S/2019/674).

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. It wishes to note that these reports adopt a one-sided approach that is increasingly hostile to the Syrian State and rely on sources whose lack of credibility has been amply demonstrated over the course of the eight years of the Syrian crisis. Having carefully reviewed the content of the sixty-second report, we would like to express the following reservations:

- The foundation on which the authors should be building when preparing such reports is full commitment to respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic. They should refrain from placing a Member State of the United Nations on the same footing as armed terrorist groups, either procedurally or legally.
- The provision of humanitarian assistance to Syrians and efforts to resolve the crisis in Syria must be free from any considerations stemming from the political agendas of the States that manufactured the crisis to begin with and remain the primary cause of Syrians' pain and suffering. As long as the Secretariat fails to comply with that principle, it will continue to produce the same tiresome reports that are a waste of human and material resources and provide no added value or perceptible benefit.
- Paragraphs 3, 8 and 12 of the report repeat the same fallacies and unfounded rumours about recent developments in Idlib governorate that Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock brought up in his latest briefing to the Security Council, in complete disregard of the identical letters that the Syrian Government has sent the Security Council and the Secretary-General regarding those developments during the recent period. The report ignores one of the most important and obvious causes of the humanitarian situation in Idlib governorate, which is the



armed terrorist groups that control most of the governorate and at least 50 per cent of whom are foreign terrorist fighters.

- The Syrian Arab Republic agrees with the report's description of humanitarian conditions in Rukban as "dire". However, the report ignores the reason behind that situation, which is the United States occupation of the area and the camp. It also ignores the role of the Syrian Government in efforts to repatriate some 70 per cent of the camp's residents to their towns, villages and homes in Syria in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. To date, the United Nations has provided no help, not even logistical, in those operations, which have been going on for almost six months.
- In paragraph 6, the authors of the report repeat the same political propaganda propagated by States hostile to Syria when they say that the Government violated "reconciliation agreements" and revert to talking about "peaceful demonstrations", "arrest campaigns" and "insurgents" in the south of Syria. Everything stated in that regard is devoid of truth and is intended to mislead and bring about a return to the situation prior to the liberation of those areas.
- Paragraph 13 contains a sort of incoherent advertisement for something called the "common forum", which it refers to as one of the priorities of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to Syria, Geir Pedersen. First of all, as far as the Syrian Arab Republic is concerned, the forum is not a priority. Secondly, this kind of promotion of that forum does not serve the efforts of the Special Envoy, and in fact could undermine the Sochi track to a solution to the Syrian crisis by creating chimerical and counterproductive frameworks and mechanisms.
- Paragraph 15 mentions instances of arbitrary arrest and detention and states that families of detainees are "paying bribes to officials" to find out their whereabouts. The Syrian Arab Republic stresses that these allegations are nothing but fabrications with no basis in fact, and reinforce the impression that the United Nations has become a party to the fabrication process. The report also states that the Secretariat relies on information from sources on the ground. The Syrian State and the other Member States of the United Nations would very much like to know who these sources are. Are there now secret agencies being encouraged by the United Nations to violate the sovereignty of States?
- Paragraph 16 of the report mentions that civilians living in areas under the control of the Levant Liberation Organization – that is to say, the Nusrah Front, which is listed as a terrorist organization on Security Council lists – and other terrorist groups in Idlib and Aleppo Governorates continued to be subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment by such groups. However, in contradiction of international law and Security Council resolutions, instead of thanking the Syrian Government and the Syrian Arab Army for combating terrorism in those two provinces and trying to liberate them from the grip of terrorist organizations and their horrific violations of human rights, we find that the report – without any evidence – accuses the Syrian Government of destruction of crops and damage to farming equipment (paragraph 12). What kind of contradiction is that? Is the terrorist Nusrah Front (al-Qaida) now an ally of the United Nations that provides it with information and reports?
- In more than one place (paragraph 21) the report refers to the worsening humanitarian situation in Syria. However, it attributes that to "insecurity and the scale of needs". The truth that Syrians experience daily is that the situation is due to the unilateral coercive economic measures and certain economic blockade measures imposed by Western States on Syria and its people. That is evident in various aspects of public life, primarily in the health and energy sectors.

- In paragraph 21, the report refers to funding for the Humanitarian Response Plan. We would like the authors of the report to exhibit some humanitarian courage and explain why funding for the Humanitarian Response Plan is only at 27 per cent even though we are at the beginning of the final trimester of 2019. Perhaps the answer is that they know all too well that the donor States are tying humanitarian and food assistance to their own political conditions for resolution of the Syrian crisis. Today, even the phrase “life-saving assistance” has become insulting to human dignity and devoid of humanitarian considerations.
- It is noteworthy that the report contains numerous blatant contradictions. Paragraph 33 states that humanitarian access from within the country continued to be “challenging”. How is that possible when the report states in paragraphs 18 and 30 that United Nations humanitarian agencies and partners had reached around 6 million people in need, that improvements in access from within the Syrian Arab Republic had been made, and that missions to many areas across the country had increased, reaching new areas such as Baghuz in southern Dayr al-Zawr, Markadah in southern Hasakah, and Abu al-Zuhur in southern Idlib (paragraph 32)? Are the authors of this report not embarrassed by these contradictions? Or is their only concern to do the bidding of their masters, that is to say, the Western States and the cancerous organizations that they call “non-governmental”?
- The report also mentions “access restraints” (paragraph 33), while at the same time admitting that approval was granted by the Syrian authorities to conduct 1,328 missions. This blatant contradiction requires some sort of explanation. How could 1,328 missions have conducted their work without approval and support of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic? The Secretariat must also display the courage to give the reasons that approval was withheld from certain missions that were intended to serve only the needs of armed terrorists.
- With regard to Hawl camp, the Syrian Government continues to cooperate with the United Nations by providing the necessary facilities to address the condition of the camp and its occupants. The Syrian Government has also provided all the facilities required by the International Red Cross organization, including a mobile field hospital for the camp with a full medical and technical staff of over 100 people. That is in addition to support for sending various kinds of assistance to those in need in the camp and neighbouring areas. We remind you that this camp is one of the shameful results of intervention by the United States and other Western States in Syrian internal affairs. It is part of an attempt to introduce terrorism into the Syrian Arab Republic, which has been foiled thanks to the sacrifices of the Syrian Arab Army.
- The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again rejects the unacceptable attempt to promote cross-border assistance (paragraphs 27 and 34) when it has been proven that such assistance is ineffective and fails to reach its rightful civilian beneficiaries. In fact, such assistance, one way or another, constitutes direct support for the terrorists, especially when a large proportion of such operations are being channelled across the Syrian-Turkish border towards areas under the control of armed terrorist groups. The Syrian Government once again demands that the United Nations should supply it with the names and records of the parties that are supposed to be acting as United Nations partners. It also stresses that United Nations officials operating in Syria should not have anything to do with any separatist entities, illegal “local councils”, or unlicensed charitable associations, especially given that such entities are more often than not attached to terrorist groups active in the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic.

- The Syrian Arab Republic deeply regrets that the Secretariat has joined efforts to circumvent the Security Council and mix humanitarian action with the narrow political interests of certain influential States. Paragraph 44 of the report calls for cooperation with the so-called “International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism”, which is illegitimate. It also calls for the situation in the country to be referred to the International Criminal Court. We call on the Secretariat to exercise sound judgment and focus on helping Syrian to solve their problems by themselves, free of the foreign intervention that is the reason for the destruction in Syria in the first place, in keeping with the basic principles and provision of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.
- The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic is astonished by the ongoing campaign being conducted against Syria, a United Nations Member State, by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other entities within the United Nations system. They are spreading misleading information from sources in Gaziantep hostile to Syria and certain mercenaries in certain Western capitals, and disregarding the dozens of letters from the Syrian Government detailing the support provided by United Nations Member States to terrorists who have committed horrifying violations of human rights in Syria using any means they can get their hands on – including such instruments of murder as chemical weapons, as happened in Khan al-Asal – while thousands of Syrian Arab Army soldiers have sacrificed their blood to protect those rights. If he wants to protect Syrians and their rights, the Secretary-General should demand the immediate lifting of coercive unilateral sanctions that are only targeting the livelihoods, health and security of the Syrian people, and call on Member States known to all to cease their support for terrorism in Syria.
- The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic categorically rejects the Secretary-General’s decision to establish a “board of inquiry to investigate a series of incidents that have occurred in the north-western part of the Syrian Arab Republic”. Syrian Arab Army forces in north-west Syria are continuing to fight terrorist organizations, under various names. They are doing so in fulfilment of their constitutional duty to protect the Syrian people and guarantee their security, and also in implementation of United Nations resolutions that call for combating terrorist organizations, under whatever name. Those organizations include the Nusra Front, which is in control of most of Idlib governorate. Meanwhile, Turkey provides weapons to armed terrorist groups, and has – without any authorization from anyone – brought all kinds of military equipment into Syria cities and towns in the “de-escalation area” in Idlib governorate. That is the primary reason for the destruction being wreaked in that governorate.
- The Syrian Arab Republic once again calls on the Security Council to stop issuing these reports; they waste the resources of the United Nations, which ought to be allocated to genuine, fruitful humanitarian action instead of being used to discredit the Syrian Arab Republic, which has been fighting terrorism for eight years on behalf of the entire world, as well for the security and stability for its citizens.

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

(Signed) **Bashar Jaafari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative