



Security Council

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Identical letters dated 23 October 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-third 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/2019/820).

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 are characterized by a one-sided approach and reliance on sources whose lack of credibility has been demonstrated over the course of the eight years of the Syrian crisis. Having carefully reviewed the content of the sixty-third report, we should like to express the following reservations:

- The authors of these reports must work from the premise of respecting fully the sovereignty and the territorial unity and integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic. Moreover, they must never place a State Member of the United Nations on the same footing as armed terrorist groups, either procedurally or legally.
- Providing humanitarian assistance to Syrians and helping to resolve the crisis in Syria must be done without any consideration for the political agendas of the States that manufactured the Syrian crisis and remain the primary cause of Syrians' pain and suffering. As long as the Secretariat fails to observe that principle, it will continue to produce the same type of reports that are a waste of human and material resources and provide no added value or perceptible benefit.
- The authors repeat the same fallacies and incorrect information about recent developments in Idlib Governorate, in complete disregard of the identical letters that the Syrian Government has sent to the Security Council and the Secretary-General regarding those developments during the recent period. The authors ignore one of the most important and basic causes of the humanitarian situation in Idlib Governorate, and that is the armed terrorist groups that control most of the Governorate and at least half the ranks of which are made up of foreign terrorist fighters.
- The Syrian Arab Republic agrees with the statement that the humanitarian situation in Rukban "remains 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 7, 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 once again speak about “peaceful demonstrations” and “arrest campaigns”. Syria reiterates that everything stated in that regard is devoid of truth and is intended to mislead and restore the status quo ante prior to the liberation of those areas.
- In paragraph 13, there is a reference to the arbitrary arrest, detention and enforced disappearance of civilians. The Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms that those references are simply groundless fabrications.
- In paragraph 14, it is stated that civilians living in areas under the control of armed terrorist groups that the Security Council has designated as terrorist organization continue to be subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. However, in contravention of international law and Security Council resolutions, rather than thanking the Syrian Government and commending the Syrian Arab Army for combating terrorism in those two Governorates and trying to liberate them from the grip of terrorist organizations and their horrific violations of human rights, we find that, in paragraph 15, the authors accuse, without any evidence, the Syrian Government of causing damage to educational facilities.
- In more than one part of the report, it is stated that the humanitarian situation in Syria has worsened, but that is attributed to a lack of security and the considerable size of the needs. However, the day-to-day reality that Syrians are living reaffirms that the real causes are the unilateral coercive economic measures and certain other economic blockade measures that have been imposed by the Western States on Syria and its people. That is evident in various aspects of public life, primarily in the health-care and energy sectors.
- In paragraph 27, the authors refer to the funding of the Humanitarian Response Plan. We would like the authors to show some humanitarian courage and explain why funding for that Plan is only at 35 per cent, although we are in the final trimester of 2019. Perhaps the answer is that they know all too well that the donor States are tying humanitarian assistance and relief to their own political conditions for resolving the Syrian crisis. Now, even the expression “life-saving assistance”, which is insulting to human dignity, falls outside the scope of their humanitarian calculations.
- In the report under consideration, a clear effort is made to promote cross-border assistance, because the Security Council will soon discuss whether to renew the provisions of its resolution [2165 \(2014\)](#). That notwithstanding, it is confirmed in the report that assistance was delivered from within the Syrian Arab Republic to millions of people in need throughout the country. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic rejects the unacceptable efforts to support cross-border assistance when it has been proven that it is ineffective and does not reach those civilians that need it. Indeed, in one way or another, such assistance ends up being a form of direct support for the terrorists, in particular because the vast majority of cross-border assistance is being delivered across the Syrian-Turkish and directed to areas under the control of armed terrorist groups. The Syrian Government once again calls upon the United Nations not to renew the provisions of resolution [2165 \(2014\)](#). In addition, it reiterates that United Nations officials working in Syria should not have anything to do with any separatist entities, illegal “local councils” or unlicensed charitable associations,

in particular given that most such entities, agencies or associations are affiliated with terrorist groups active in the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic.

- Although the authors of the report state that there are “limitations on access” (paragraph 32), they also admit, in paragraph 31, that approval was received from the Syrian authorities to conduct 1,119 missions. The authors need to explain and justify this stark contradiction. How could 1,119 missions have been conducted without the approval and support of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic? The Secretariat should also have the courage to say that some missions were not approved because they would only benefit armed terrorists.
- With regard to the Hawl camp, the Syrian Government continues to cooperate with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations to provide the facilitation needed to address the situation in the camp and of its residents, as well as to support the distribution of various forms of assistance to those in need in the camp and surrounding areas. It should be noted that the existence of this camp is the shameful outcome of intervention by the United States and other Western States in the internal affairs of Syria and their attempts to sow terrorism in the Syrian Arab Republic. However, thanks to the sacrifices of the Syrian Arab Army, those efforts were thwarted.
- The Syrian Arab Republic deeply regrets that the Secretariat has joined the effort to bypass the Security Council and mix humanitarian action with the narrow political interests of certain influential States. In paragraph 48, the authors call for cooperation with the so-called International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism, which is illegal, and for the situation in the country to be referred to the International Criminal Court. The Syrian Arab Republic calls upon the Secretariat to show wisdom and focus on helping Syrians to solve their problems by themselves, free of the foreign intervention that has been the primary cause of the destruction of Syria, in keeping with the basic principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.
- 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-western Syria are continuing to fight terrorist organizations, regardless of what they are called. They are doing so in fulfilment of their constitutional duty to protect the Syrian people and guarantee their security, and also in implementation of Security Council resolutions that call for combating terrorist organizations, regardless of what they are called. Those organizations include the Nusra Front, which controls 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 Syrian 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 upon the Security Council to stop issuing these reports; they are a waste of United Nations resources, 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 as for security and stability for its citizens. The Syrian Government hopes that the United Nations and its agencies will focus on the humanitarian ramifications of the Turkish aggression against the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, and act immediately to ensure that convoys carrying all sorts of relief and health-care materials reach affected Syrians. The Government reaffirms that it opens the door wide to all sincere

efforts to provide, without delay, Syrian civilians with humanitarian assistance and whatever else they might need to help them overcome their hardships and return to their homes as soon as possible.

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

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