



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-sixth session

Item 37 of the provisional agenda\*

### The situation in the Middle East

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### Report of the Secretary-General

#### *Summary*

The present report contains replies received in response to the note verbale by the Secretary-General dated 24 May 2021 concerning implementation of the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution [75/24](#), entitled “The Syrian Golan”.

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\* [A/76/150](#).



## I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [75/24](#). In that resolution, which deals with the Syrian Golan, the Assembly demanded once more that Israel withdraw from all the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967 in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.
2. On 24 May, in order to fulfil my reporting responsibility under resolution [75/24](#), I addressed notes verbales to the Permanent Representative of Israel, the Permanent Representatives of all other Member States and the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations requesting them to inform me of any steps that their Governments had taken or envisaged taking concerning implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution. As at 12 July 2021, replies had been received from Argentina, the Kingdom of Bahrain, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic. The replies are provided in section II of the present report.

## II. Replies received

### Argentina

[Original: Spanish]

The Government of Argentina reaffirms once again its conviction that a definitive solution to the occupation of the Syrian Golan can be achieved only through negotiations between the parties, in accordance with Security Council resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#) and [338 \(1973\)](#), and reiterates that recognition of the occupation of territories contrary to international law does not contribute to such a solution.

### Kingdom of Bahrain

[Original: Arabic]

- Bahrain reaffirms resolution 4126 adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level on 13 February 1982 and the subsequent resolutions of the League, the most recent of which was resolution 8535 adopted at the 154th ordinary session on 9 September 2020; the resolutions adopted at Arab summits, the most recent of which was resolution 750 adopted at the Tunis summit, at the 30th ordinary session, on 31 March 2019, all of which reject the measures taken by the Israeli authorities to alter the legal, natural and demographic situation of the occupied Syrian Golan and characterize the measures taken by Israel to consolidate its control over that territory as illegal, null and void, and a violation of international agreements and of the Charter and resolutions of the United Nations, particularly Security Council resolution [497 \(1981\)](#) and General Assembly resolution [36/226](#) of 17 December 1981, in which the Assembly declares the annexation of the Syrian Arab Golan to be null, void and without international legal effect, and a grave violation of Security Council resolution [497 \(1981\)](#); and General Assembly resolutions [64/21](#) of 2 December 2009, [65/18](#) of 30 November 2010, [65/106](#) of 10 December 2010, [66/19](#) of 30 November 2011 and, most recently, resolution [75/99](#) of 10 December 2020 concerning the occupied Syrian Golan, and resolution [75/97](#) of 10 December 2020 concerning Israeli settlements in the occupied Syrian Golan.
- Bahrain supports the legitimate demand of the Syrian Arab Republic and its right to recover all the occupied Syrian Arab Golan to the lines of 4 June 1967,

in accordance with the foundations of the peace process, the authoritative international resolutions and the outcomes of the 1991 Madrid peace conference.

- It reaffirms that the occupation of the Syrian Arab Golan since 1967 poses an ongoing threat to peace and security in the region and the world. It remains committed to the authoritative international resolutions, the most recent of which are the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, namely resolution [75/99](#) of 10 December 2020 concerning the occupied Syrian Golan, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the occupied Syrian Golan, and decided that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan was null and void and without international legal effect; General Assembly resolution [74/90](#) of 13 December 2019 entitled “Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories”, in which the Assembly called upon Israel to desist from changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan, and determined that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken or to be taken by Israel, the occupying Power, that purported to alter the character and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan were null and void, constituted a flagrant violation of international law and of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War; General Assembly resolution [75/97](#) of 10 December 2020, entitled “Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan”, in which the Assembly affirmed that the transfer by the occupying Power of parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupied was invalid and constituted a breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and reaffirmed that Israeli settlements were illegal, an obstacle to peace and economic and social development, and a breach of international law.
- Bahrain condemns the practices of Israel in the occupied Syrian Golan. Israel has seized and confiscated farmland; plundered natural resources, including mineral riches, by drilling and extracting oil and exploiting it for economic gain; drained water resources by digging wells, building dams and siphoning off lake water for settlers; and deprived Syrian farmers of the water that they need in order to irrigate their fields and support their livestock. Those resources are the exclusive property of the people of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan. That point has been confirmed in international conventions and in the authoritative resolutions.
- Bahrain supports the Arab position and expresses its full solidarity with the Syrian Arab Republic. It condemns the ongoing violations perpetrated by Israel and its repeated attempts forcibly to impose a policy of fait accompli on the occupied Syrian Golan, confiscate thousands of dunams of agricultural land owned by the people of the Golan, and implement a destructive, colonial wind turbine project near Arab villages. That project will pose a serious environmental and health threat to the villages. It will eliminate large swathes of farmland, place a stranglehold on adjacent villages and prevent their natural expansion. Bahrain condemns Israel’s repeated attacks on the people of the Golan. Israel has repressed peaceful demonstrations in which the people rejected the project as a threat to their land and to present and future generations. Bahrain calls on the international community to reject those hostile measures, take strong action to condemn them, and press Israel to desist from its illegal practices.
- Bahrain calls on the international community to press Israel to stop violating the rights of the people of the Syrian Arab Golan and comply with the recommendations set out in the report dated 18 May 2018 concerning health conditions in the

occupied Syrian Golan submitted by the Director-General of the World Health Organization to the World Health Assembly (A71/27). In that report, Israel is called upon, in accordance with international law, to facilitate procedures for all patients, enable ambulances to have free access without delay, and ensure that health care workers can have unhindered access to their workplace, and adhere to Security Council resolution [2286 \(2016\)](#) reiterating relevant international law regarding the protection of the wounded and sick, medical personnel engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and medical facilities.

- Bahrain calls on the international community to press Israel to refrain from imposing Israel citizenship and identity cards on Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, and to put an immediate stop to its repressive policies that hinder their enjoyment of their fundamental rights and their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.
- Bahrain condemns all measures taken by the occupying Israeli authorities, including the imposition of local elections in the occupied Syrian Golan. It considers those actions to be an attack on the people of the Golan and an attempt to deprive them of their Syrian Arab identity and compel them to abandon their legacy, their history and their homeland. They are a bare-faced act of aggression and a violation of the rules of international law and the relevant authoritative international resolutions. Bahrain warns Israel of the repercussions of those steps, which could inflame conflict and stymie all international projects and efforts to bring peace and security to the region.
- Bahrain calls on the United Nations, the Security Council and the Human Rights Council to ensure that Israel respects the four Geneva Conventions and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and that it takes action to help the inhabitants of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan to visit their families and relatives in the motherland, Syria, via the Qunaytirah crossing, under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross.
- Bahrain reaffirms all the internationally authoritative resolutions on the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, particularly those of the Human Rights Council, including the two most recent resolutions, which were adopted at its fortieth session on 22 March 2019. In the first resolution, the Human Rights Council condemned the violations perpetrated by the occupying Israeli authorities in the occupied Syrian Golan and called upon Israel to comply with the relevant resolutions, in particular Security Council resolution [497 \(1981\)](#), in which the Security Council rejected the decision of Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan as null and void and without international legal effect. In the second resolution, on Israeli settlements in the occupied Syrian Golan, the Human Rights Council reaffirmed that the settlements established by the occupying Israeli authorities were illegal.
- Bahrain calls for the implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations concerning the full withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Syrian Arab Golan and all occupied Arab territories to the lines of 4 June 1967.

## Cuba

[Original: Spanish]

The Republic of Cuba has, on numerous occasions and in various contexts, expressed its strongest condemnation of the unilateral decision of the United States Government to recognize the sovereignty of Israel over the Syrian Golan in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, in particular resolution [497 \(1981\)](#).

This aggressive, unilateral and unjustified action by the United States Government in the Middle East severely undermines the legitimate interests of the Syrian people and is leading to a dangerous escalation in the region.

The Security Council must fulfil its primary responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations to maintain international peace and security, demand that Israel withdraw immediately from the Golan Heights and adopt the necessary decisions to reject the unilateral action of the United States Government in support of the intention of Israel to annex the occupied Syrian Golan.

The Republic of Cuba will continue to call for the total and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from the Syrian Golan and from all occupied Arab territories, while continuing to support the demand of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to recover the Golan Heights, which were seized by Israel in 1967.

The Republic of Cuba reiterates its commitment to the defence of multilateralism and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including respect for the sovereign equality, political independence, unity and territorial integrity of States, the peaceful settlement of disputes, and refraining from the use or threat of use of force in international relations.

## **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

[Original: English]

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea hereby expresses deep concern about ongoing attempts by some forces to legitimize the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan.

The Israeli practices and actions of steadily building and expanding settlements in the occupied Syrian Golan and undermining the rights of the Syrian people constitute a serious infringement on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea strongly opposes occupation and annexation of the Syrian Golan by Israel and extends full support and solidarity to the Government and people of the Syrian Arab Republic in their struggle to reclaim the occupied Syrian Golan, safeguard the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

## **Ecuador**

[Original: English]

Ecuador has ratified, in a permanent manner, the fundamental principle that the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible, following international law and the Charter of the United Nations, in full coincidence with the stipulations of the aforementioned resolution. The same can be said of the need for the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to apply to the occupied Syrian Golan.

Ecuador has reiterated what was stated in General Assembly resolution [75/24](#), that the occupation of the Syrian Golan and its de facto annexation constitute an obstacle to the achievement of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region, and has maintained its permanent call to the parties to resume negotiations between them and to respect all relevant resolutions that have been issued by the Security Council.

## Iraq

[Original: Arabic]

1. Iraq supports General Assembly resolution [75/24](#) of 2020, entitled “The Syrian Golan”. All Member States must implement it. Iraq reaffirms that all measures and actions that have been taken by the Israeli entity aimed at changing the legal status, physical character, demographic composition and institutional structure of the occupied Syrian Golan, and imposing its sovereignty and jurisdiction over it, including through the expansion of Israeli settlements in the Syrian Golan, which has been occupied since 1979, are without legal effect. Those measures and actions are a flagrant violation of international law, international agreements and the Charter and resolutions of the United Nations.
2. Iraq reaffirms that the purposes and objectives of the United Nations and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States must be respected, and that international resolutions on the Golan must be implemented.
3. Iraq reiterates that it rejects the Israeli entity’s settlement campaigns and investment projects in the Golan, and the entity’s policies aimed at restricting the economic activity of the local population.
4. Iraq reaffirms that those who have been displaced have the right to return to their homes and property, and that the actions taken by the Israeli entity aimed at imposing its laws and regulations in the territories it occupies, including the Syrian Golan, are illegal. In addition, Iraq categorically rejects the local elections being conducted by the occupying Israeli authorities in the Golan, and reaffirms the need to abide by the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention.
5. Iraq is concerned at United Nations reports that reveal the extent of the Syrian people’s suffering in the Golan, and calls upon the United Nations to play its role in ending that suffering and the illegal occupation.

## Syrian Arab Republic

[Original: Arabic]

1. From the time that Israel occupied the Syrian Golan in 1967, the international community has reiterated that it rejects that occupation and has demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, withdraw from the entire occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967. The General Assembly, in its resolution [75/24](#) of 2 December 2020, entitled “The Syrian Golan”, demands once more that Israel, the occupying Power, withdraw from the entire occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June for 1967, in implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions.

In that same resolution, the General Assembly also once again demands that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with United Nations resolutions concerning the occupied Syrian Golan, in particular Security Council resolution [497 \(1981\)](#). In that resolution, the Security Council declares that the Israeli decision of 14 December 1981 to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the occupied Syrian Golan is null and void and completely illegal. The General Assembly also demands that Israel should rescind forthwith its decision.

2. My Government reaffirms that the occupied Syrian Arab Golan is an integral part of the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic. Its recovery from the Israeli occupiers by all the means provided for under international law is an eternal right that cannot be bargained over or waived. It stresses that the Golan was and will remain Arab and Syrian.

3. The Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan has persisted for 54 years. During that time, the United Nations has repeatedly adopted resolutions calling upon Israel, the occupying Power, to end its occupation of the Syrian Golan and cease its blatant violations of international instruments and norms. Nevertheless, to this day, Israel refuses to implement United Nations resolutions and continues to occupy the Syrian Golan, escaping accountability thanks to the protection offered by certain members of the Security Council.

4. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic denounces the settlement policies that are being implemented by Israel in the occupied Syrian Golan without any regard for the relevant Security Council, General Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions. In their resolutions, those bodies reaffirm the illegality of Israeli settlement-building and other activities in the occupied Syrian Golan and renew their call on Israel to desist from changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan and, in particular, to desist from establishing settlements. The decision of the Israeli Government to establish the Trump settlement, and the beginning of installation there by the Israeli regional settlement council, in cooperation with the settlement unit of the Zionist Agency, of infrastructure and social amenities to receive 20 families in the months of December 2020 and January 2021 is yet further evidence the continuing Israel policy of settlement expansion in the occupied Syrian Golan on the ruins of Syrian villages destroyed by the occupying authorities, designed to remove any traces of a Syrian presence or Syrian villages.

5. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic condemns all Israeli practices and actions aimed at controlling the natural resources of the occupied Syrian Golan and the systematic looting of those resources by Israel, the occupying Power, in flagrant violation of the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources, Security Council resolution [497 \(1981\)](#) and General Assembly resolution [75/236](#) of 21 December 2020, entitled “Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources”.

6. Since 1967, Israel, the occupying Power, has been trying to expropriate land belonging to Syrian Arab citizens. It has set deliberate fires by launching incendiary bombs at agricultural land and fruit trees in an effort to displace inhabitants. It has set up projects that serve the interests of the occupying Power, especially in the northern occupied Golan, which is a wind corridor and therefore an energy resource. Israel, the occupying Power, is committing fresh violations of international resolutions as it continues to implement policies to snatch land and control and plunder the resources of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan. It is confiscating the land and property of our people in the occupied Syrian Golan for a gigantic wind turbine project. Our people struggling under occupation have challenged this move through mass demonstrations, which the occupying forces have met with unprecedented violence resulting in a number of injuries and arrests.

7. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic condemns the major increase in the pace of the violations and practices perpetrated by the Israeli occupation against Arab Syrians in the occupied Syrian Golan since the illegal March 2019 declaration of the United States Administration recognizing the annexation by Israel of the occupied Syrian Golan. That declaration blatantly violates the rules of international law, the Fourth Geneva Convention and Security Council resolution [497 \(1981\)](#), in which the Council decided that Israel’s decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan was null and void and without international legal effect. It also violates resolutions concerning the occupied Syrian Golan adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the

Human Rights Council. The Syrian Government categorically rejects statements made by United States Secretary of State Anthony Blinken in that regard as part of continued United States support for the occupying Israeli forces. The policies of the United States of America reflect a dangerous propensity to undermine international law, insult the United Nations and fly in the face of all terms of reference, legal precedent and the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict and the absolute need for Israel to end its occupation of Arab lands and withdraw to the borders of 4 June 1967.

8. The occupying Israeli authorities, as part of their systematic policies to uproot the people of the occupied Syrian Golan from their land, granted licences to the Israeli Energix company to set up dozens of wind turbines in fields belonging to Syrian farmers in the occupied Golan. They announced that the turbines would generate power over a 6,000-dunum area of private Syrian-owned agricultural land surrounding villages in the occupied Golan. They are doing this despite massive and ongoing protests by Syrian residents of the Golan rejecting this project, which will limit the potential of the occupied villages to expand, surround their inhabitants with dense residential areas, cause serious health, environmental and agricultural harm to the Syrian Golan region, and affect the lives and livelihoods of its Syrian inhabitants and their families.

9. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic condemns Israel, the occupying Power, for pressuring Syrian students studying in Europe who come back to spend their vacations in the occupied Golan by forcing them to accept Israeli citizenship or else be prevented from returning to Europe to complete their studies.

10. At the beginning of February 2020, Syrians in the occupied Golan declared a universal general strike in protest against the Israeli project to build wind turbines on their land, because they pose environmental, health and existential threats, and will damage more than 3,600 dunums of agricultural land. They held angry demonstrations condemning the project, which the occupying Israeli authorities met by escalating their practices, crackdowns, threats and prosecutions against the Golan residents who protested the project, who included men and women teachers. The protesters are now facing legal action because of their positions and activities against the project. The occupying Israeli authorities arrested Syrian Arab citizens for opposing the wind turbines. On 9 December 2020, Syrians in the occupied Golan declared a universal strike and went to the areas where the giant turbines are to be built. They spread out to face the occupying Israeli authorities and prevent their expansionist plot from being carried out on their own land and fields. The occupying Israeli army met the mass movement with repression, intimidation and arbitrary arrests. Dozens of protesters suffered injuries from bullets and tear gas, and dozens were arrested. These actions were accompanied by pressure from the occupying Israeli authorities on the people of occupied Syrian villages to accept title deeds issued by the so-called Israeli Land Survey Department in place of title deeds registered in their Syrian motherland, on pain of confiscation of their land. This is all part of the occupying Power's scheme to Judaize the land by forcing replacement Israeli documents on it. The Israeli authorities were particularly insistent that landowners in the village of Ayn Quniyah and the industrial area belonging to the village of Majdal Shams should turn over title deeds handed down by their parents and grandparents. That measure would eventually be extended to the rest of the villages in the occupied Syrian Golan. The occupying authorities threatened to seize the land from its true owners and award it to Israeli settlers if the owners did not accept Israeli title deeds. Prior to all this, escalatory steps taken over the past years by the occupying Israeli authorities had included trying to impose their illegal decision to hold elections for local councils in the occupied Syrian Golan on 30 October 2018. That attempt failed in the face of the determined refusal by Golan residents to take part. They boycotted both the nomination and



election processes as yet another attempt to legitimize the occupation and apply its laws to the occupied Syrian Golan.

11. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic calls upon the Secretary-General, the Security Council, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the President of the Human Rights Council and the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross to pressure Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its discriminatory and racist practices towards Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan, which are affecting their health conditions and bringing about a decline in health services just as the coronavirus (COVID-19) is spreading. Israel must also end its destructive practices with respect to the environment and natural resources, especially water. Over the years, Israel has buried some 1500 barrels of nuclear waste at 20 locations in the occupied Syrian Golan – among them Nashbat al-Muqbilah, Qasr Sabib and Birkat Marj al-Mann – in flagrant violation of international law and the Fourth Geneva Convention. These violations pose ongoing deadly threats in the occupied Syrian Golan, exposing the lives of Syrian citizens to numerous risks, including cancer, which now accounts for 30 per cent of all deaths.

12. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic stresses the need for the international authorities referred to above to pressure Israel, the occupying Power, to desist from its practice of issuing peremptory decisions that prevent Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan from visiting their homeland Syria via the Qunaytirah crossing. These arbitrary Israeli actions, which violate the Geneva Conventions and all international norms and instruments, will only bring about further material, psychological and physical suffering for Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan, beyond all legal and moral limits. Syria calls for the Israeli occupying authorities to be compelled to open the Qunaytirah crossing, in order to enable Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan to visit their country and their relatives.

13. The Syrian Arab Republic condemns the repeated and ongoing Israeli attacks on Syrian territory that originate in the airspace over the occupied Syrian Golan. Such attacks have resulted in loss of life and damage to public and private buildings. Syria calls on the international community to fulfil its responsibility to deter Israel and put a stop to its aggression, which significantly undermines security and stability in the region. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms that, in order to ensure stability in the Middle East and preserve the credibility of the United Nations, measures must be taken to implement all international resolutions aimed at ending the Israeli occupation of occupied Arab territories, including the Syrian Arab Golan, and compel Israel to withdraw to the line of 4 June 1967, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, including, in particular, Security Council resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#), [338 \(1973\)](#), [497 \(1981\)](#) and [2334 \(2016\)](#).

14. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its opposition to attempts to perpetuate the occupation of the Syrian Golan by the occupying Israeli authorities and the States that support their colonial policies. It condemns the occupying Power's persistent violations of international law, the relevant Security Council resolutions and the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, which have been going on in the occupied Syrian Golan for more than 54 years without any deterrent. It reiterates its demand to the United Nations and those of its Member States who are committed to international law, to pressure Israel, the occupying Power, to end its occupation of the Syrian Golan and not to recognize any legal status arising from any violations by the occupying Israeli authorities of the peremptory norms of international law.

15. In particular, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic emphasizes the need to refrain from providing any assistance to the occupying Israeli authorities,

particularly in the economic, business and tourism spheres, or any support for the continuation of Israeli settlements and/or the establishment of new settlements that would reinforce the occupation of the occupied Syrian Golan and the continued violation of the human rights of its Syrian Arab population.

16. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic renews its call on the international community and international organizations to monitor the flagrant violations by Israel of international law, basic human rights, and the Fourth Geneva Convention; to express its categorical rejection of such violations; and to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its illegal settlement policies and repressive measures against Syrian residents of the occupied Syrian Golan, and to end its occupation of the Syrian Golan.

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