



Security Council

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Identical letters dated 10 May 2019 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic 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 twenty-ninth semi-annual report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution [1559 \(2004\)](#) ([S/2019/343](#)).

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic is committed to the stability, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Lebanon. It is surprised that internal events in Syria were dragged into the twenty-ninth semi-annual report on the implementation of Security Council resolution [1559 \(2004\)](#) after the Government had, for its part, implemented all the provisions of that resolution. In particular, Syria objects to the content of paragraph 9, as its subject matter does not fall within the mandate and parameters of the resolution.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic also objects to the references to Syrian refugees in paragraph 10. Syria stresses its desire and readiness to enable Syrian citizens who have been forced to leave their homes because of terrorism perpetrated by armed terrorist groups to return to their homes safely without having their suffering exploited for political purposes. It also stresses the need to observe international humanitarian law and human rights instruments with respect to Syrian refugees.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic emphasizes that border demarcation is a sovereign matter subject to the will of the Governments of the two States involved. In that connection, we remind you that it is continued Israeli occupation of Arab lands that is preventing any progress on that issue, and that the real obstacle standing in the way of the final demarcation of the Syrian-Lebanese border is the continued Israeli occupation of the Shab'a Farms. Resolute international will is required to compel the Israeli occupying forces to honour and implement the relevant international resolutions.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic also rejects all allegations designed to undermine the brotherly ties that unite Syria and Lebanon and to diminish the enormous sacrifices made by Syria on behalf of the recovery of Lebanon, the safety of its people, and its territorial integrity.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic rejects statements made in paragraphs 26 to 28 of the report regarding Hizbullah, and, in that context, stresses that the role played by Hizbullah in the Syrian Arab Republic is part of the fight against terrorism.



The fact that the report is content to quote letters sent by Lebanon protesting Israeli violations against Syria carried out from Lebanese airspace without taking a clear stand against those violations demonstrates a total bias towards Israel, which has been violating the provisions of resolution [1559 \(2004\)](#) in a systematic fashion.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates that it is dedicated to the stability, sovereignty, territorial integrity and regional safety of Lebanon, and that it rejects the continued practice of dragging internal events going on in Syria into the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General.

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
