



Security Council

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Identical letters dated 4 February 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 the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, and further to our previous letters informing you of the crimes committed by armed terrorist organizations in Syria, I wish to transmit the following information:

At the behest of their handlers, the armed terrorist groups have carried out yet another series of deliberate attacks on the service infrastructure, especially the oil and energy sector, which provide vital services to Syrian children, women and the elderly. The terrorist organizations' latest attacks, on 4 February 2020, targeted the Rayyan gas plant, the gas plant of the southern central area, the Ebla gas plant and the Homs refinery, causing serious material losses and extensive damage to some facilities. They were preceded by attacks on the offshore oil rigs near Banyas on 27 January 2020.

Those terrorist acts come at a time when the armed terrorist groups have escalated their crimes against civilians in the cities of Aleppo, Idlib, Hama and Ladhīqiyah. They have launched hundreds of rockets and missiles at defenceless civilian areas, killing one civilian and injuring dozens more. Those actions were directly supported by the Turkish regime, which has provided direct logistical support to the armed terrorist groups.

It is highly regrettable that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other entities have failed to address such attacks in their reports. The attacks took place with protection and political and media cover from well-known States, foremost among which are the United States of America and certain Western States whose media fabricate reports against the Syrian Government in order to give an inverted version of the facts and mislead the international community to an unprecedented extent. Their intention is to misrepresent the meticulous precision strikes carried out by the Syrian Arab Army and its allied in Aleppo and Idlib governorates in response to appeals from Syrian civilians in those governorates. The strikes are a response to the systematic crimes of the armed terrorist groups, particularly the terrorist organization Nusrah Front, which has continued to besiege civilians in Idlib city and prevented them from leaving through the humanitarian corridors established by the Syrian State in Abu al-Duhur, Habit and Hadir, in Idlib and Aleppo governorates. Full-fledged clinics have been installed in the corridors in order to serve children, women and the elderly, and the necessary means of transport have been provided.



The armed terrorist groups' attacks on the economic facilities and infrastructure that serve Syrian civilians, on the one hand, and the unilateral coercive measures imposed on the Syrian people by certain States, on the other hand, are the two main factors that have exacerbated the plight of the Syrian people.

In response to those repeated and deliberate attacks on oil and economic facilities, the Syrian Arab Republic reserves the right, which is guaranteed under international law, to demand that the States that provide all forms of support to armed terrorist groups pay compensation to Syria for such systematic acts of destruction. Those States must put an immediate end to such practices, which destroy the resources of the Syrian people, prolong the crisis and slow the recovery process.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic emphasizes that States Members of the United Nations must fulfil their duty and their moral and legal obligation by ensuring that the Security Council takes swift deterrent action against the terrorist groups and those States that sponsor and support terrorism and endanger international peace and security in violation of the counter-terrorism resolutions of the Security Council, international law and the Charter 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
