

**Security Council**

Distr.: General  
11 March 2020

Original: English

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**Note verbale dated 10 March 2020 from the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations has the honour to transmit herewith a letter addressed to the President of the Security Council for the month of March 2020, in relation to the recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters from Syria and their transfer and deployment to Libya (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt kindly requests that the present note verbale and its annex be brought to the attention of the Security Council and be distributed as a document of the Security Council.



**Annex to the note verbale dated 10 March 2020 from the  
Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to  
the President of the Security Council**

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing to you to draw the attention of the Security Council to the serious threat posed to international peace and security by the actions of the Government of Turkey in relation to the recruitment, transfer and deployment of foreign terrorist fighters and members of terrorist cells, militias and armed groups from Syria to Libya.

Credible information and evidence is abundant regarding these actions, which constitute multiple and flagrant violations of Security Council resolutions, many of which were adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, whether on the situation in Libya or on counter-terrorism.

Indeed, since its invasion of north-eastern Syria in October 2019, Turkey's intelligence agency has been transferring terrorists affiliated with ISIL/DAESH, previously in detention centres in that part of Syria, to Libya. The Turkish Government has also transferred Al-Qaida-affiliated terrorists from Idlib across the sea. Moreover, the Turkish Government has been transporting terrorists from Gaziantep in Turkey to Istanbul on its military aircraft.

The Turkish Government has recruited terrorist elements to fight on Libyan territory through proxy militias in north-eastern Syria. Such elements include the Syrian-Turkman members of what is known as the Free Syrian Army, allied with Turkey, especially from the "Sultan Murad", "Al-Hamzat" and "Suleiman Shah" brigades, with monthly salaries ranging from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

Moreover, in its twenty-fifth report, submitted on 27 December 2019 to the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1989 \(2011\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#), the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team confirmed the role of Turkey in releasing foreign terrorist fighters from detention centres in north-eastern Syria. It also highlighted the role of intermediaries based in Turkey in facilitating the flow of funds to ISIL/Daesh in north-eastern Syria.

The information contained in the present letter is a brief account of the Turkish Government's many violations of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and Security Council resolutions adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter. They have been admitted to by Turkish officials themselves in public statements and reaffirmed by the leaders and representatives of many States Members of the United Nations.

Turkey's declared support for foreign terrorist fighters and terrorism poses a serious threat to regional and international peace and security and requires a firm stance and an unequivocal denunciation from the international community, as represented by the Security Council. Such international condemnation should curb any future endeavours to pursue such illegitimate and destructive practices and policies.

Needless to say, the aforementioned actions also contravene the agreements reached at the Berlin Conference on Libya of 19 January 2020. Their continuation would only prolong and escalate the conflict in Libya and undermine all efforts aimed at any meaningful de-escalation and cessation of hostilities, in a manner that hinders any prospects for launching a credible and inclusive political process.

Moreover, the deployment of foreign terrorist fighters within armed militias affiliated with the Government of National Accord in areas falling under its control largely undermines that Government's credibility, as well as its legitimacy as a

reliable partner in the political process leading to a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Libya.

Accordingly, and with a view to affirming the determination of the United Nations to combat terrorism, the Arab Republic of Egypt calls on the Security Council to uphold its responsibilities in maintaining international peace and security. Egypt urges the Security Council to hold the Government of Turkey accountable for its grave transgressions, which contravene various Security Council resolutions, including the obligation stipulated in paragraph 3 of resolution [2396 \(2017\)](#) in relation to the movement of foreign terrorist fighters and the notification thereof.

Egypt reserves the right to take all necessary measures to preserve its national security and remains committed to upholding its responsibilities towards combating terrorism and maintaining regional and international peace and security, while fully respecting its obligations pursuant to international law.

Finally, Egypt stands ready to provide further information on Turkey's malicious role in supporting terrorism and aggravating instability in the region.

I would be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohamed **Edrees**  
Permanent Representative of Egypt  
to the United Nations

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