



Security Council

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Identical letters dated 29 November 2021 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 my country, I should like to convey to you the following important and alarming information.

I should like draw attention to Security Council resolution [2585 \(2021\)](#), in particular paragraphs 2 and 5 thereof regarding the question of “transparency in operations, and progress on cross-line access in meeting humanitarian needs” and the request made of “the Secretary-General to include in his reports overall trends in United Nations cross-line operations, in particular on the implementation of the above-mentioned activities on improving all modalities of humanitarian deliveries inside Syria.”

I should like to point out that the Government of my country, the Syrian Arab Republic, approved the substance of the communication dated 21 October 2021 from the Office of the Resident Coordinator for United Nations development and humanitarian activities in the Syrian Arab Republic addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Syria, in which approval was requested for the United Nations to send cross-line humanitarian convoys to north-western Syria over a six-month period, starting from mid-November 2021.

Moreover, the Government of my country, the Syrian Arab Republic, approved the request that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates received on 28 October 2021 from the World Food Programme (WFP) to dispatch a convey from its warehouses in Aleppo to its warehouse in Sarmada in the last week of November 2021, as part of the United Nations plan to send cross-line humanitarian convoys to north-western Syria over a six-month period.

Furthermore, the Government of my country, the Syrian Arab Republic, immediately approved the request that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates received on 1 November 2021 from the WFP office to modify and bring forward the date on which the above-mentioned convoy would be dispatched to Sarmada, so that it would fall between 9 and 11 November 2021 and coincide with the visit to Syria of David Beasley, the Executive Director of WFP, who wanted to be present when the convoy set out from Aleppo city. It was that humanitarian operation that the occupying Turkish forces in north-west Syria and associated armed terrorist groups obstructed when those groups fired missiles at the Miznaz crossing and the route that the humanitarian convoys were to take, a move that forced international and local humanitarian partners to cancel the operation.



What is more, the Government of my country, the Syrian Arab Republic, approved the urgent request that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates received on 18 November 2021 from the WFP office to set a new date, during the period from 28 to 30 November, on which the humanitarian convoy would move from Aleppo Governorate to Sarmada, after the armed terrorist groups associated with the occupying Turkish forces thwarted the operation that had been set to take place during the period from 9 to 11 November.

Accordingly, I should like to inform you that yesterday, Sunday, 28 November, and today, Monday, 29 November, the occupying Turkish forces in north-eastern Syria once again thwarted the movement of the convoys from the warehouses of WFP in Aleppo to its warehouse in Sarmada, an operation that was scheduled to begin yesterday and continue until Tuesday, 30 November. Armed terrorist groups associated with the occupying Turkish forces in those areas once again fired missiles at the crossings and routes that the convoys were to use, forcing international and local humanitarian partners to cancel the operation a second time.

In that connection, I should like to convey to you the following observations and reservations from the Government of my country, the Syrian Arab Republic.

First, the Syrian Government has made every effort and provided the assistance needed to facilitate execution of the six-month plan for cross-line humanitarian assistance, the implementation of which the Office of the Resident Coordinator for United Nations development and humanitarian activities in the Syrian Arab Republic had requested in order to comply with Security Council resolution [2585 \(2021\)](#).

Second, the Syrian Government, despite the time pressure, responded with record speed to all requests relating to plan implementation and dispatch of WFP convoys that the Office of the Resident Coordinator and WFP made.

Third, officials Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates official repeatedly asked representatives of the Office of the Resident Coordinator and the United Nations agencies involved in those humanitarian operations whether the Government of the occupying Turkish forces had guaranteed the security and safety of the international and local partners that were to participate in those humanitarian operations. The United Nations responded that it had not received a final answer, but that it was in contact with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey in order to ensure that those operations are carried out.

Fourth, the Government of the occupying Turkish forces must now bear the legal, political, moral and financial responsibility for obstructing those humanitarian operations, preventing the United Nations from moving forward with the six-month plan for cross-line humanitarian assistance and violating Security Council resolution [2585 \(2021\)](#). It is doing so in order to impede the cross-line delivery of aid and continue exploiting the so-called cross-border assistance mechanism, with a view to strengthening the position and capabilities of the armed terrorist groups that control the areas into which those convoys enter from Turkish territory, particularly given the lack of a strict control system for such convoys and guarantees that assistance is reaching rightful beneficiaries in those areas.

Fifth, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic expects the Secretary-General and the Security Council to immediately take a firm stance in response to this aggressive conduct by Turkey, which violates the relevant Security Council resolutions and ignores and undermines all understandings that have been reached in the Council to enhance cross-line delivery of assistance. The Syrian Government requests the Secretary-General to submit immediately a report to the Security Council that contains clear and transparent information on the obstruction of such operations by the Government of the occupying Turkish forces and its associated armed terrorist

groups, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution [2585 \(2021\)](#).

Sixth, on the basis of the aforementioned legal data and facts on the ground, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic requests the Security Council to reconsider the decision to extend the decisions in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Security Council resolution [2165 \(2014\)](#), in keeping with the language of paragraph 2 of resolution [2585 \(2021\)](#), whereby any extension is linked to the “issuance of the Secretary-General’s substantive report, with particular focus on transparency in operations, and progress on cross-line access in meeting humanitarian needs.”

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

(Signed) Bassam **Sabbagh**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
