

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 24 November 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter from Najib Ghadbian, Special Representative of the Syrian National Coalition to the United Nations, dated 24 November 2014 (see annex).

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

(Signed) **Abdulmohsen Alyas**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



Annex to the letter dated 24 November 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the people of Syria and the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces, it is my grave responsibility to draw your attention to the worsening humanitarian situation in Syria.

More than one year has passed since the Security Council adopted its first presidential statement on the humanitarian situation in Syria ([S/PRST/2013/15](#)). Since then, the Security Council has adopted two resolutions seeking to ameliorate the suffering of Syrians (resolution 2139 (2014) and resolution 2165 (2014)), the Secretary-General has issued nine reports documenting the gravity of Syria's humanitarian catastrophe and the international community has invested heavily in an attempt to provide aid to Syrians trapped behind conflict lines. Despite these efforts, the humanitarian situation in Syria has deteriorated.

Currently 12.2 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, up from 9.3 million one year ago; 7.6 million Syrians are internally displaced; and 3.2 million are now refugees, a staggering 50 per cent increase since November 2013. Across northern and eastern Syria, religious and ethnic minorities now live in fear of violent extremists, with thousands of Kurdish civilians trapped in Kobane/Ayn al-Arab at the Syrian-Turkish border.

There is a clear cause of the devastation and destruction in Syria: the Assad dictatorship. Over the past four years, Syrian regime forces have engaged in a calculated strategy to kill, torture and starve those communities that oppose Assad's brutality. They have defied Security Council resolutions and committed war crimes and crimes against humanity. The immense human suffering caused by the Assad regime's brutality has fomented the spread of extremism and transformed Syria into a safe-haven for terrorist groups.

As detailed in annex I, among the widespread and systematic gross violations of human rights of the Syrian regime is its continued use of heavy weapons, cluster munitions, ballistic missiles, barrel bombs and deadly chemical weapon chlorine gas to kill innocent civilians. These illegal actions have increased since the onset of international airstrikes in Syria in September 2014. Rather than work to eliminate ISIS, the Syrian regime has chosen to significantly intensify its aerial assaults on moderate opposition-held areas in Rif Dimashq, Aleppo, Idlib and along the Syrian-Jordanian border. In recent weeks, its deadly barrel bomb attacks have accounted for hundreds of deaths, including those of innocent women and children.

Alongside the Syrian regime's deadly attacks on civilians there has been a policy of siege warfare. In direct contravention of Security Council resolutions 2165 (2014) and 2139 (2014), the Syrian regime has continued to deny United Nations aid agencies and international non-governmental organizations access to Syrians in need. In hard-to-reach areas, regime officials deliberately deploy administrative obstacles to slow and even halt aid delivery. In opposition-held areas lying along Syria's borders, regime forces block the delivery of assistance and discourage United Nations agencies from engaging in cross-border and cross-line aid.

Despite the many impediments deployed by the Syrian regime to stem aid delivery, Syria's moderate forces continue to use Security Council resolution 2165

(2014) to deliver humanitarian relief to hundreds of thousands of Syrians. Throughout the past month, the Partners of the Syrian National Coalition, the Assistance Coordination Unit (ACU) and the Interim Government have delivered goods and services to hundreds of thousands of Syrians, through approximately 300 cross-border trucks. ACU has delivered flour, education kits, medicine and medical goods, winter kits and non-food items.

Through resolution 2165 (2014) the Security Council established a comprehensive mandate to enhance the delivery of cross-border aid and reach 3.5 million Syrians but they have not been reached. The mandate must be fully utilized by United Nations agencies, particularly with respect to cross-border delivery. The Syrian National Coalition therefore urges the Security Council to act without delay to:

- Significantly strengthen resolution 2165 (2014). The mandate is due to expire soon. It should not only be renewed; it should be strengthened to ensure cross-border delivery at scale and impose consequences for non-compliance by the regime;
- Use its collective weight to insist on coordination between United Nations agencies and Syrian aid organizations, which are the key to delivery in opposition-held areas, but have not been sufficiently coordinated or consulted with on the delivery of assistance and longer-term strategizing;
- Insist that United Nations agencies make full use of the mandate of resolution 2165 (2014) in the manner envisaged by the Security Council, particularly in terms of extensive cross-border delivery.

In parallel to our requests to the Security Council, we are stepping up our efforts with partners to increase the flow of aid into Syria through non-United Nations channels. There are too many lives at stake to rely only on one channel that is not working yet at capacity.

Another month has passed with increased violence and escalated regime violations of resolution 2139 (2014), which called for medical neutrality, an end to arbitrary detention and torture, the lifting of sieges and the cessation of the use of indiscriminate weapons. Syrians have had no reprieve, as the Security Council continues to fail to demand compliance with its resolution 2139 (2014). The international community cannot let another month pass with resolution 2139 (2014) being treated as nothing more than an expendable piece of paper.

As Syrians embark upon their fourth winter amid war and devastation, the need to resolve the Syrian crisis has never been greater. Humanitarian assistance will provide a necessary but temporary respite from our country's suffering. However, to sustainably resolve the humanitarian situation in Syria, as well as the political and security crises, the Security Council must redouble efforts to end the conflict in Syria and ensure a political transition to democracy in keeping with the Geneva Communiqué as referenced in resolutions 2118 (2013), 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014). The Syrian National Coalition remains committed to working towards this solution. It is imperative that the Council play its part.

(Signed) **Najib Ghadbian**
Special Representative of the Syrian National Coalition
to the United Nations

Enclosure

Syrian regime non-compliance with Security Council resolution 2139 (2014) and ISIS violations

- (i) **Paragraph 3:** *All parties immediately cease attacks against civilians and indiscriminate employment of weapons in populated areas.*

According to the Syrian Network for Human Rights, Syrian regime forces killed 1,231 people in October 2014, including 121 women and 216 children; 118 of those killed in October were killed under torture.

Violation: massacres in October 2014

The Syrian Network for Human Rights issued a report documenting 30 massacres that took place during the month of October 2014; 26 massacres were committed by Syrian regime forces, 2 by unknown groups, 1 by ISIS and 1 by armed opposition battalions.

Rif Dimashq:

- On 3 October 2014, Syrian regime warplanes bombed a public market in Douma, killing 15 people, including 2 children, and injuring about 120 others.
- On 9 October 2014, Syrian warplanes bombed a public market in Irbin, killing 31 people, including 4 children and 6 women.
- On 14 October 2014, Syrian regime warplanes bombed a residential block in Irbin, killing 13 people, including 2 children and 2 women.
- On 14 October 2014, Syrian regime warplanes bombed a residential block in Ain Tarma, killing 13 people, including 3 children and 3 women.
- On 16 October 2014, Syrian regime warplanes bombed a residential block in Jisrain city, killing 22 people, including 3 children and 1 woman.
- On 17 October 2014, Syrian regime military warplanes launched 8 airstrikes on Douma, killing 21 people, including 8 children.
- On 25 October 2014, Syrian regime warplanes bombed the village of Bala, which hosts displaced communities, killing 8 people, including 3 children and 1 woman.

Idlib:

- On 3 October 2014, Syrian regime helicopters dropped barrel bombs on Saraqeb, killing 6 people, including 1 woman.
- On 5 October 2014, Syrian regime warplanes launched a missile at the town of Dana, killing 6 people, including 2 children and 1 woman.
- On 6 October 2014, Syrian regime warplanes launched a missile at the town of Khan al-Sibl, killing 10 people, including 5 children and 3 women.
- On 10 October 2014, Syrian regime warplanes launched a missile at the town of Telmens, killing 5 people, including 3 children and 1 woman.

- On 23 October 2014, Syrian regime warplanes attacked the town of Kafr Ruma, killing 5 people.
- On 25 October 2014, Syrian regime helicopters dropped 2 barrel bombs on the Syrian town of Hebit, killing 8 people, including 3 children and 4 women.
- On 29 October 2014, Syrian regime helicopters dropped 2 barrel bombs on Abdin camp in the village of Sheikh Mustafa, killing 18 people, including 2 women and 2 children.

Dar'a:

- On 6 October 2014, Syrian helicopters dropped barrel bombs on the town of Namr, killing 7 people, including 1 child and 2 women.
- On 10 October 2014, Syrian regime forces launched a surface-to-surface missile on the town of Hara, killing 21 people, including 6 children and 2 women.
- On 21 October 2014, Syrian regime helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on the town of Nasib, killing 23 people, including 12 children and 2 women.
- On 21 October 2014, Syrian regime helicopters dropped 4 barrel bombs on the town of Yadodeh, killing 6 people, including 3 children and 1 woman.
- On 26 October 2014, Syrian regime helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on the town of Bosra al-Sham, killing 15 people, including 6 children and 3 women.
- On 28 October 2014, Syrian regime helicopters dropped 2 barrel bombs on the town of Abtaa, killing 5 people, including 2 children.

Homs:

- On 1 October 2014, two explosions went off near the Akrama al-Mukhzumi Primary School in the Akrama neighbourhood, killing 52 children and 1 woman. No one took responsibility for the explosion.
- On 8 October 2014, Syrian regime forces shelled the besieged Al Wa'er neighbourhood with surface-to-surface missiles, killing 7 people, including 2 children and 4 women.
- On 15 October 2014, Syrian regime forces shelled the besieged Al Wa'er neighbourhood with an explosive cylinder, killing 10 people, including 1 child and 2 women.
- On 25 October 2014, Syrian regime warplanes launched an air assault on Talbiseh city, killing 22 people, including 13 children and 3 women.
- On 25 October 2014, Syrian regime forces shelled the besieged Al Wa'er neighbourhood with an explosive cylinder, killing 7 people, including 1 child.
- On 26 October 2014, Syrian regime warplanes launched an air assault on Talbiseh city, killing 6 people including 2 children and 1 woman.

Aleppo:

- On 23 October 2014, Syrian regime helicopters dropped 3 barrel bombs on a wedding hall sheltering displaced people from Tel Akrah, killing 19 people, including 15 children and 4 women.
- On 27 October 2014, an armed opposition group launched a Grad rocket at the Kamal School in the Hamdania neighbourhood, killing 7 people including 5 children.

Hasakeh:

- On 3 October 2014, ISIS executed 8 civilians in the village of Kanho.

Deir ez-Zor:

- On 27 October 2014, a car bomb exploded at the Bakra roundabout in Mayadin city, killing 5 people, including 1 child. No one took responsibility for the explosion.

Violation: eastern Ghouta massacres

The Syrian regime continues to target eastern Ghouta on a daily basis, dropping a wide range of weapons on the besieged area, including barrel bombs, artillery shells and mortars. Many of the deaths in eastern Ghouta are the result of the lack of necessary medical supplies to treat the wounded owing to the regime's blockade.

Syrian Network for Human Rights documented 14 massacres in besieged eastern Ghouta during the months of September and October 2014, in which 274 civilians were killed, including 71 children and 40 women, and 1,150 were injured.

- On 9 September 2014, Syrian regime warplanes bombed the neighbourhood of Jiser Misraba in Douma in Rif Dimashq, killing 27 people, including 9 children and 5 women.
- On 11 September 2014, Syrian regime forces launched 4 airstrikes on the Hassiba Mosque neighbourhood in Douma, killing 58 people, including 22 children and 10 women.
- On 14 September 2014, Syrian regime forces launched 2 airstrikes on the neighbourhood of the Hal market in Douma, killing 11 people, including 2 children and 1 woman.
- On 16 September 2014, Syrian regime forces shelled Hamuriya city in Rif Dimashq, killing 20 people, including 2 children and 1 woman.
- On 17 September 2014, Syrian regime forces shelled Jala Street in Douma, killing 15 people, including 7 children and 5 women.
- On 22 September 2014, Syrian regime forces shelled Hamuriya city, killing 13 people.
- On 24 September 2014, Syrian regime forces launched 4 raids on Douma, killing 12 people, including 4 children and 3 women.

- On 3 October 2014, Syrian regime warplanes bombed the public market in Douma, killing 15 people, including 2 children.
- On 9 October 2014, Syrian regime warplanes bombed the public market in Irbin in Rif Dimashq, killing 31 people, including 4 children and 6 women.
- On 14 October 2014, Syrian warplanes bombed a residential block in Irbin, killing 13 people, including 2 children and 2 women.
- On 14 October 2014, Syrian warplanes bombed a residential block in Ain Tarma, in Rif Dimashq killing 13 people, including 3 children and 3 women.
- On 16 October 2014, Syrian warplanes bombed a residential block in Jisrain city in Rif Dimashq, killing 22 people, including 3 children and 1 woman.
- On 17 October 2014, Syrian military warplanes launched 8 airstrikes on Douma, killing 21 people, including 8 children.
- On 25 October 2014, Syrian warplanes bombed the village of Bala in Rif Dimashq, which hosts displaced communities, killing 8 people, including 3 children and 1 woman.

Violation: Abedin camp massacre

On 29 October 2014, the Syrian regime dropped 2 barrel bombs on an internally displaced persons camp near Habeet in the northern province of Idlib; 18 people were killed, most of them women and children, and dozens others were injured. The camp was destroyed.

Among those who killed were:

- 4 displaced persons from the village of Arba'een in Hama.
- 9 displaced persons from the village of Jubain in Hama.
- 3 displaced persons from the village of Lataminah in Hama.
- 1 displaced person from the village of Kafr Houd in Hama.
- 1 displaced from Hama city.

Violation: Syrian regime's use of barrel bombs and indiscriminate weapons, particularly on Aleppo, Dar'a and Al Wa'er neighbourhood (Homs)

The Syrian regime continued to drop indiscriminate barrel bombs and aerial munitions during this reporting cycle, killing and injuring many civilians.

The Syrian Center for Justice issued its monthly report on the Syrian regime's use of explosive weapons on Aleppo. In October 2014, the Syrian regime targeted Aleppo and its countryside with 183 barrel bombs, including one loaded with chlorine gas, 187 rockets, 3 cluster bomb attacks and 4 surface-to-surface missiles, leading to the death of 96 people, including 11 women, 29 children, 2 fighters and 2 health workers.

The Syrian regime continues to carry out large-scale barrel bombing of Dar'a. According to *Naba News*, a local media agency that specializes in documenting Syrian regime violations, the Syrian regime dropped 345 barrel bombs and launched 177 rockets from MiG aircraft during the month of October 2014. The regime

focused its bombing primarily on Haraa city, dropping 52 barrel bombs on it, and Enkhel city, dropping 41 barrel bombs on it; 275 people were killed in Dar'a in October as a result of the bombing, including 32 people in Haraa city alone.

The Syrian regime continues its policy of the indiscriminate shelling of vital centres in opposition-controlled areas in order to paralyse the civil, economic and commercial operations and disrupt the educational, health and food structures in those areas. According to the Syrian Network for Human Rights, the regime targeted 44 vital centres in October: 13 schools, 1 bakery, 5 commercial markets, 6 medical centres, 2 ambulances, 14 houses of worship, 1 desalination plant and 2 electrical energy plants.

The Education Directorate in Rif Dimashq announced on 21 October 2014 the closure of all schools and education facilities in Douma owing to the regime's frequent assaults on the city and the extreme danger faced by children and youth congregating in an area.

In November 2014, Human Rights Watch issued a report documenting the Syrian regime's use of incendiary weapons. From the start of the Syrian revolution in March 2011 until the present, the Syrian regime has used incendiary weapons 57 times against civilian targets in 8 of the 14 provinces in Syria. The most prominent of these attacks was on 26 September 2013, when the Syrian air force dropped 2 incendiary bombs on a school in the city of Oram al-Qubra in Aleppo, killing 37 people, mostly school students, and injuring 44 others. Some of the bodies of the students were charred to the point of no recognition.

373 media activists have been killed from March 2011 to the end of October 2014. According to the Syrian Network for Human Rights, in October, the Syrian regime killed 6 media activists, including 1 who died under torture in a Syrian regime detention centre and injured 5 others.

- Journalist Taj al-Deen al-Shaghbir was found on 30 September 2014 in the Tishreen neighbourhood of Damascus. His body was decomposed. The manager of the Media Centre in Jasim City, Marwan Mohammad al-Shahadat, was killed by a rocket assault on an area mosque in Jasim City on 3 October 2014. On 5 October 2014, a Syrian regime sniper targeted and killed Natheer Mahmoud al-Saadi as he attempted to bring in food to the besieged town of Dir al-Adas in Dar'a. On 15 October 2014, Ata Allah Bahbooj died after being critically injured in a regime mortar attack in Dar'a. On 15 October 2014, Bilal al-Masri died after the regime launched two surface-to-surface missiles at the Al Wa'er neighbourhood in Homs.
- On 17 October 2014, media activist Abd al-Haleem Abd al-Razzaq Barboor died under torture in Branch 215. He was originally detained by the regime on 17 October 2012 at the Aykardah checkpoint near Aleppo.
- On 8 October 2014, the Syrian regime injured Sham News Network correspondent Majid Abd al-Noor while covering events in Sayfat in Aleppo. On 11 October 2014, the Syrian regime injured Mohamad Falooji while covering events in Dar'a. On 17 October 2014, the Syrian regime shot and injured Abdullah al-Nawawi while covering events in Dar'a. On 23 October 2014, the Syrian regime shot and injured Yaqeen Foundation correspondent Mohammad Naqawa while covering events in Dar'a. That same day, the

regime injured Emad Abu Aqeel when it launched a rocket at the Media Centre in Sheikh Meskeen in Dar'a.

Violation: Syrian regime use of toxic gas

The Syrian regime continues to drop toxic chemical gas on civilian areas. The Syrian Network for Human Rights documented the Syrian regime's use of chemical gases (notably toxic chlorine gas) 50 times since the adoption of Security Council resolution 2118 on 27 September 2013 until 22 October 2014 in 18 areas inside Syria. These attacks have resulted in the deaths of 50 people, including 8 children and 4 women, and the injury of 1,100 people.

- (ii) **Paragraphs 5, 6 and 7:** *All parties must immediately lift sieges of populated areas and allow unrestricted delivery of humanitarian aid. All parties must promptly allow United Nations humanitarian agencies and partners safe and unhindered access to populations in need.*

The besieged areas remain the most in need. Despite the Security Council's adoption of resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014), no humanitarian organizations or United Nations agencies have been able to access these areas to distribute life-saving assistance there. Assistance continues to be distributed in border and non-besieged areas. Areas under regime siege continue to experience daily bombardment, resulting in civilian massacres without any media coverage or attention.

Violation: Syrian regime sieges in eastern Ghouta, Daraya, Hajr Aswad and Tadamun

The Syrian regime continues its complete siege of eastern Ghouta, Daraya, Hajr Aswad and Tadamun. The regime is preventing the movement of civilians and life-saving aid such as food, medicine, baby milk, medical goods and fuel in and out of these besieged areas. The regime is preventing all agencies and humanitarian organizations from entering these areas and continues to bombard these areas on a daily basis, using a wide array of munitions, including missiles and barrel bombs.

The number of individuals besieged in these areas are:

- Daraya: 7,000 individuals
- Hajr Aswad and Tadamun in southern Damascus: 25,000 individuals
- Eastern Ghouta: 400,000 individuals

Due to the siege, the health conditions have worsened in the besieged areas, resulting in the spread of disease and illness, particularly liver infection, typhoid fever, measles and tuberculosis. As the regime is preventing medical aid from entering these areas, residents' immune systems have weakened at alarming rates.

The besieged areas are under daily bombardment. The Syrian regime drops barrel bombs, artillery shells and mortar shells on gathering areas and residential locations, resulting in high numbers of injuries. Due to the Syrian regime's siege, much of the medical aid needed to treat the injured is not available, resulting in the death of many of the injured.

There has been a significant decrease in food items in the besieged areas, particularly infant milk. As a result, the price of infant milk has increased approximately tenfold, making it unattainable for many families. This has resulted in severe malnutrition among infants.

Mukhayim Wafideen, the only entry and exit point to eastern Ghouta, is closed to all civilians, preventing them from leaving the area even to obtain daily nourishment. If residents attempt to leave besieged eastern Ghouta, Syrian regime snipers directly target them, leading each month to dozens of civilian deaths.

As a result of the closing of the Mukhayim Wafideen crossing point, only a limited number of traders can enter or exit eastern Ghouta, causing food prices to quadruple or quintuple. For example, where the price of a kilo of sugar is 50 Syrian pounds in Damascus, it is 250 pounds in eastern Ghouta. After the regime closed the Mukhayim Wafideen crossing point, the price increased to 2,250 Syrian pounds.

The Syrian Interim Government issued a statement on 22 October 2014 that declared eastern Ghouta a disaster area at all levels due to the following reasons:

- Siege of eastern Ghouta for a whole year
- High unemployment rate of more than 90 per cent due to the economic blockade
- Increased number of massacres: 15 massacres occurred during the month of October, in which 175 people were killed, including 65 children and 41 women, and 1,000 people were injured
- Continuation of chemical weapons attacks, especially in the cities of Adra, Jobar and Harasta
- Lack of international support (unlike in Kobane, where fighters receive airdropped weapons, nothing is airdropped into eastern Ghouta, not even medical supplies or milk for children).

On 15 October 2014, Maher Oyoon of Douma died of malnutrition.

On 3 November 2014, Omar Tatin of Sakba in eastern Ghouta died of malnutrition as a result of the siege. He is the third child in the family to die this year. His sisters Isra and Asma were killed during a regime air assault on the city on 18 June 2014.

The Unified Revolutionary Medical Office in eastern Ghouta announced for the first time three cases of Myiasis disease in eastern Ghouta as a result of the regime's siege. Due to the lack of clean water and fuel to boil water and the lack of health care and sanitation systems, Myiasis disease has emerged.

Violation: Syrian regime siege of Al Wa'er neighbourhood in Homs

The Syrian regime continues to besiege the Al Wa'er neighbourhood in Homs. The regime initially besieged Al Wa'er in August 2013, allowing only limited food items and medical supplies to enter the area and preventing people from moving in or out of the area without prior permission from the "Political Security Bureau". All violations of the regime's informal conditions, for example, bringing in food or medical supplies, have been met with extreme hostility, such as detention, arrest and physical abuse.

Al Wa'er neighbourhood is west of Homs city. It has 15,000 displaced families. The neighbourhood is surrounded by regime-controlled military checkpoints.

- (iii) **Paragraph 11:** *All parties must immediately end arbitrary detention and torture of civilians in Syria, notably in prisons and detention facilities, as well as the kidnappings, abductions and forced disappearances, and must immediately release all arbitrarily detained persons.*

According to the Syrian Network for Human Rights, the regime killed 118 people under torture in October 2014, bringing the total number of deaths under torture since the start of the Syrian Revolution in March 2011 to 5,514 people, including 95 children and 32 women.
