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Identical letters dated 16 September 2019 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 my country's Government, I should like to convey to you the following information.

The secessionist terrorist militias known as the Syrian Democratic Forces have continued to commit crimes and acts of terrorism and repression against Syrian civilians in the governorates of Hasakah, Raqqah, Dayr al-Zawr and Aleppo with support from the United States of America and the forces of the so-called international coalition, which provide it with military, logistical, material and political backing. Its actions chime in, fatefully, with the Israeli occupation's plans for the region, which are being pushed through by certain proxy countries of the United States. Those parties disregard the resolutions of the Security Council, which have consistently emphasized the unity, sovereignty and independence of the land and people of the Syrian Arab Republic. They also ignore the history, civilization and values of the Syrian people, which rejects secessionist projects and is committed to the unity of the Syrian land and people.

Not only have the Syrian Democratic Forces militias participated in the so-called international coalition's crimes against the Syrian people; they have also taken matters to another level by methodically abducting, torturing and killing civilians, expelling them from their homes, stealing their property, and forcibly and illegally recruiting their youth in order to impose a new reality that will assist American and Israeli plans for the region and prolong the terrorist war on Syria.

The terrorist militias' actions come at a time when the Syrian Arab Army has been undertaking its most noble and solemn duty, which is a source of pride to all Syrians, by combating the terrorists of the Nusrah Front and terrorist organizations affiliated with Islamic Front in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Al-Qaida in Idlib Governorate. Certain States have been protecting those groups in the field and on the Security Council. The draft resolutions that are being promoted by certain States on the Security Council, including the self-proclaimed first draft authors, are part and parcel of that endeavour. The authors' writing hand has not quivered for so much as an instant before the terrorist groups' atrocities targeting innocent Syrian civilians in Idlib, northern Aleppo Governorate, north-east Syria and Raqqah. Hundreds or even thousands of bodies are still buried under the rubble left by American bombings.

Alongside its friends and allies, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic is determined to recover every inch of its territory, liberate it from terrorism, and rebuild

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all that the terrorists and their backers have destroyed. The lands controlled by the secessionist terrorist militias that go by the name of Syrian Democratic Forces are no exception. The Syrian people will not allow its unity or territorial integrity to be breached, or its property and its cultural and material assets to be stolen.

The Syrian Arab Republic has announced the opening of Abu al-Duhur and other crossings so that civilians in Idlib can escape the clutches of the terrorist group Nusrah Front and of Al-Qaida. That measure is clear evidence that the Syrian State respects international humanitarian law, in stark contrast with the charade that has been put on by certain parties before the Security Council. Since the outset of the crisis, certain States have targeted Syria and supported terrorists and killers who have prevented civilians from leaving areas of terrorist presence through crossings that were opened by the Syrian State in an effort to save civilian lives. Those States should be ashamed of their conduct and must immediately put an end to their misinformation, which is now clear to the peoples of the world.

As and when the Syrian Arab Army succeeds in breaking the terrorists' stranglehold – whether in Aleppo, Dar'a, Qunaytirah, Dayr al-Zawr, Rif Dimashq or elsewhere – those same groups and States take shameful positions in order to prevent it from fulfilling its objectives, which are consistent with the resolutions of the Security Council and the provisions of international law and international humanitarian law on counter-terrorism. These latest attempts are no different from what has happened before. Syria and its allies will pursue the war on terrorism and its backers until all of Syrian territory has been freed from that scourge.

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

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative