United Nations S/2020/714

Security Council

Distr.: General
16 July 2020
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 15 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following information.

Further to our letters regarding the violations committed by Turkey and its serious and repeated attacks against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, we should like to apprise you of the latest blatant aggressions that the Turkish regime has committed against the Syrian people and sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic. Those aggressions constitute a threat to international peace and security. Accordingly, the Security Council must fulfil its responsibility and put an end to such threats and violations, which are contrary to principles and purpose of the United Nations, threaten international peace and security, and contribute to the spread of terrorism.

From the time that the Turkish aggression against Syrian territory began on 9 October 2019 in the eastern part of the country, armed terrorist groups and mercenaries in Ra's al-Ayn that are supported by the Turkish Government have continued to kill innocent Syrian civilians and loot their property, plunder their homes and shops and burn their crops, and to seize wheat and barley stocks, displacing thousands of persons from Ra's al-Ayn and driving them towards Hasakah city and surrounding villages.

Meanwhile, just recently, the occupying Turkish forces once again committed the crime of cutting off the water supply from the Uluk station, the main source of drinking water of more than 1 million people in Hasakah city and surrounding residential communities. Moreover, the occupying forces continue to prevent Syrian government employees from entering and operating that station. Their actions are tantamount to a war crime and genocide, in particular given the pressing need of that area's people to protect themselves against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

The Turkish Government is engaging in these illegal and inhumane practices for political and military gain, without regard for the urgent and essential humanitarian needs of the area's people. Moreover, it is in violation of all international conventions and agreements that guarantee the right of every human being to have access to drinking water and not to have access to such arbitrarily cut off or the supply of such to be polluted. Access to water is a fundamental human right that all States must respect and not undermine.

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The use by the Turkish Government of water resources as a means of putting pressure on the Syrian Government in order to achieve its political and military objectives, and its decision to reduce of the number of hours that electricity is generated while at the same time cutting of the water supply from the Uluk station portends a serious humanitarian and environmental disaster for the entire region.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic strongly condemns these crimes and the repeated Turkish attacks against the Syrian people and the territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, as those actions constitute a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic, the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, the rules of international law, Security Council resolutions and all resolutions relating to the protection of human rights. Furthermore, the Government reaffirms its legitimate right to respond to the crimes, violations and aggressions that Turkey has committed repeatedly, as well as its right to seek compensation for all damage caused thereby.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again call upon the Security Council to fulfil its responsibility to maintain international peace and security and put an end to the violations that Turkey has been committing against the Syrian people and to recurring Turkish aggression against Syrian territory. The Council must also compel Turkey to implement its resolutions on counter-terrorism and to respect fully the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic and the unity of the Syrian people.

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