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Security Council

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Identical letters dated 31 May 2022 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 Government, and further to our letter of 23 May 2022, I should like to update you on the recent attack launched by Israeli occupation forces on Friday, 20 May 2022, at 2300 hours, in which they fired bursts of surface-to-surface rockets from the occupied Syrian Arab Golan at certain points south of Damascus, including Damascus International Airport. That resulted in the death of a civilian worker, injuries to other workers and significant material damage. It left a large crater in runway R23, destroyed part of a Passenger Terminal 2 building façade, and caused major structural damage.

This latest Israeli attack constitutes a serious violation of the principles of international law, the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, and the relevant United Nations resolutions, in particular Security Council resolution 350 (1974) concerning disengagement. Repeated attacks on civilian targets at Damascus International Airport threaten the safety and security of civil aviation and civilian air traffic. They are in violation of the 1944 Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention), which guarantees the safety of global civil aviation. They come amid international silence and an umbrella of protection from the United States of America that emboldens the Israeli occupation authorities to persist in their repeated aggression against the Syrian Arab Republic and undermines and erodes the credibility of the international community, all of which will only make the situation worse.

The Syrian Arab Republic warns the Israeli occupation authorities against continuing these repeated flagrant criminal violations and acts of aggression, and against the risks they pose to regional stability and international peace and security. The Syrian Government stresses that those who commit and encourage such cowardly attacks will reap the consequences. It also reaffirms that Syria has the right to use all legitimate means to respond to such attacks and hold all those that are behind them fully responsible for their serious repercussions.

The Syrian Arab Republic once again draws the attention of the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council to the seriousness of the threat that these repeated Israeli violations and attacks pose to regional stability and international peace and security. It warns that the Security Council cannot continue to shirk its duty to address repeated Israeli aggressions against the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic seriously and promptly.

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The Syrian Arab Republic once again calls upon the Security Council to fulfil its responsibilities under the Charter, the most important of which is the responsibility to maintain international peace and security, and to fully implement and enforce its relevant resolutions, in particular resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 497 (1981), by taking decisive and immediate action to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its attacks on the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, end its occupation of the Syrian Golan and withdraw fully from the Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967.

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

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