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Written statement* submitted by Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, a non- governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Human Rights Situation in the Syrian Arab Republic

Violations committed by the Syrian state and its allied parties

1. Violations of the right to life and targeting civilians

In February 2020, fourteen civilians were killed in aerial bombing due to the Russian and Syrian army raids and later on different areas in Northern-western Syria. Moreover, (K.L), a child, was wrongly killed by the Syrian government forces in a town named Kafr Taal in the western countryside of Aleppo district in the same month¹. In May 2020, 10 civilians were wrongly killed by airstrikes from Russian airplanes in the city of Arihah, South of Idlib in the Northern-western of the Syrian Arab Republic², while three civilians were killed in Russian raids on the city of Binnish in Idlib's countryside in August 2020³.

2. Enforced arrests and disappearance

On August 4th, 2020, the Syrian security forces arrested three civilians from one family. They led them to an unknown destination in Abo-lafa village in northern-east of Al Saan sub-district in the eastern countryside of Hama⁴. Furthermore, the arrest was not carried out through a legal arrest warrant issued by a court, and no one from the detainees' families was informed with such incidents. Their cellphones were confiscated, and they were prohibited from contacting either families or defense lawyers. In the same context, the Syrian government forces arrested four civilians after breaking into their houses in Mayadin town in the eastern countryside of Deir ez-Zurr governorate. They also led them to an unknown destination in June 2020⁵, in addition to arresting the president of the Youth Party for development and change (Bruin Ibrahim) during her presence the demonstration in front of the parliament opposing the government policies in August 2020⁶.

Violations committed by the armed groups supported by Turkey

1. Violation of the right to life

The Turkish-backed armed factions carried out many extrajudicial and without fair trial killings against Syrian citizens. During February 2020, The Levant Liberation Committee (Hayat Tahrir al-Sham) executed ten people, including a woman, in different areas of Idlib governorate on various charges, most notably adultery, blaspheme, and working for the Syrian government forces. The Syrian courts in different areas in Idlib and Hama during the same month⁷. The Levant Liberation Committee carried out a death sentence against the citizen (R. M) from Idlib governorate after he was accused of dealing with the Syrian government forces. This person had run for and won membership in the Parliament in the Syrian government in one of the council's sessions. After the termination of his accession, he returned to his hometown in Idlib, but he was sentenced to death without a fair trial in April 2020. In that context, the Levant Liberation Committee killed the young man (M.A.H.T) on charges of blaspheme during the same month as well. It is worth noting that

¹ النظام السوري يقتل طفلاً في قرية كفر تعال بريف حلب، في 11 شباط، الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان ، فبراير 2020 ، <https://bit.ly/341uWso>.

² <https://bit.ly/3g7OLAQ> مقتل 10 مدنيين في إدلب وروسيا تنفي استهداف مستشفى، العربية نت ، مايو 2020 ،

³ المرصد: قتل 3 مدنيين في غارات روسية على مدينة بنش بريف إدلب، أخبار الآن، أغسطس 2020، <https://bit.ly/343q2eh>.

⁴ قوات النظام السوري تعتقل مدنيين عدة من عائلة واحدة في قرية أبو لفة بريف حماة، الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان ، أغسطس 2020 <https://bit.ly/3fYIIhB>.

⁵ قوات النظام السوري تعتقل مدنيين عدة في مدينة الميادين بريف دير الزور، الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان ، يونيو 2020 ، <https://bit.ly/3100gFV>.

⁶ قوات النظام تعتقل المعارضة بروين ابراهيم من أمام مجلس الشعب (فيديو)، الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان ، أغسطس 2020 <https://bit.ly/3aqHN8I>.

⁷ حاكم شرعية إسلامية تصدر ستة أحكام إعدام في قضيتي قتل بادلبل وحماة، سورين من أجل الحقيقي والعدالة ، فبراير 2020 <https://bit.ly/2WZTOwC>.

the committee carries out these executions in its prisons against activists and Syrians amid concealment of these facts⁸.

In that conjunction, armed members of the Sultan Murad Division (Firqat al-Sultan Murad) of the Free Syrian Army, supported by Turkey, killed the citizen (E.I), who was displaced from the countryside of Aleppo in the city of Ras al-Ain. After the theft of warehouses for storing and distributing goods a few months, they seized his factory for the manufacture of household appliances⁹. An armed member of the same division killed the 74-year-old elderly citizen (A.A.), from the village of Maidanaki in the Sharan suburb of Afrin, after an argument between the two parties because of the citizen's request from that armed person to leave his land. Still, the armed member refused and beat him, which led to the death of the latter immediately. In the same context, elements of the Samarkand faction, who is also supported by the Turkish government in Afrin, assaulted an older woman (F.K), aged 85, strangled her to death, and stole her jewelry without any legal evidence to prosecute them because of the committed violations that they in April 2020¹⁰. In this regard, a group of ISIS remnants in April 2020 killed eight civilians in the Al-Tabany desert in the northwestern countryside of Deir Ezzor while working. Forty civilians, including 11 children, were killed due to a bomb explosion in an oil truck in the town of Afrin, northern Syria, which is under the protection of the Turkish forces. The latter forces tried to cover up their security failure to protect civilians in the area by accusing the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) without a clear legal basis¹¹.

On May 14th, 2020, a Syrian citizen was killed while others were injured due to an attack launched by the pro-Turkish Syrian factions and the Turkish army on a civilian car in northeastern Syria. These incidents are frequently repeated crimes that come within the framework of the efforts of members of the Sultan Suleiman Shah faction to expel the people from the town of Sheikh Hadid to use it for the benefit of the organization¹². One of these means is the continuous attack on civilians in these areas. It is worth noting that these militias killed 21 civilians, including eight children and one woman, during the year 2019¹³.

2. Child recruitment

On May 9th, 2020, some human rights reports revealed that the National Turkish government backed Army factions had recruited children to send them to fight inside Libya using forged identity cards for children whose dates and places of birth were tampered with. Thus, they were registered in the personal status records of the Syrian National Army and sent to Libya after informing them that they would receive the sum of 3000 dollars¹⁴, which violates the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict issued by the United Nations¹⁵.

The violations committed by the Syrian Democratic Force (SDF)

On July 17th, 2020, the Syrian democratic force announced the start of the second phase of deterrent terrorist acts in several Syrian areas such as in Reef door Al Sharfia. During such operation, the Syrian forces imposed a curfew on these areas, closed all the shops, and disturbed the services along with many arbitrary arrests, which considered violations of the political rights for citizens. It is noticed that in July, the Syrian democratic forces carried out arrest campaigns against opponents who are linked to the free Syrian army. In this regard,

⁸ سجون تحرير الشام تقب أسود يخفي وراءه مئات الثوار المغيبين ومصيرهم مجهول، شبكة الشام، فبراير 2020، <https://bit.ly/2M1leMh>.

⁹ السلطان مراد تقتل نازحاً من ريف حلب وتستولي على مصنعه في رأس العين، سوريين من أجل الحقيقي والعدالة، أبريل 2020، <https://bit.ly/2WZY9zU>.

¹⁰ سوريا مقتل عشرات المدنيين بينهم أطفال في تفجير شاحنة نفط بعفرين شمالي البلاد، فرنسا 24، أبريل 2020، <https://bit.ly/36ugb0g>.

¹¹ سوريا مقتل عشرات المدنيين بينهم أطفال في تفجير شاحنة نفط بعفرين شمالي البلاد، فرنسا 24، أبريل 2020، <https://bit.ly/36ugb0g>.

¹² سوريا مقتل عشرات المدنيين بينهم أطفال في تفجير شاحنة نفط بعفرين شمالي البلاد، فرنسا 24، أبريل 2020، <https://arbne.ws/2TFywCv>.

¹³ سوريا مقتل 3346 مدني في سوريا خلال عام 2019، <https://bit.ly/36ugb0g>.

¹⁴ سوريا مقتل عشرات المدنيين بينهم أطفال في تفجير شاحنة نفط بعفرين شمالي البلاد، فرنسا 24، أبريل 2020، <https://bit.ly/2zw2nq7>.

¹⁵ البروتوكول الاختياري لاتفاقية حقوق الطفل بشأن اشتراك الأطفال في المنازل المسلحة، مكتبة حقوق الإنسان جامعة مينيسوتا، <https://bit.ly/3ei5yR1>.

the Syrian Democratic Forces arrested 61 people including 11 children¹⁶. In May 2020, the SDF killed 7 outlaw people, including 2 children, while arrested 41 people, including 3 children¹⁷. In April 2020, The SDF arbitrary arrested¹⁸ 19 people and 52 people in January of the same year¹⁹.

The Turkish and Israeli violations

The Turkish government commits a group of violations in the Syrian Arab Republic, including bombing the civilians in scattering neighborhoods in Northern Syria. In January 2020, the Turkish military bombed 6 Syrian villages in Afrin district using heavy weapons, which caused the death of a child and a woman²⁰ in addition to 5 wounded, including the city's women and children. In March 2020, the Turkish armed forces had bombed sites in the countryside of Aleppo in Northern Syria, which have been continuously frequent incidents since the Turkish intervention had begun in the Syrian Arab Republic²¹. In contrast, the security agents and Turkish intelligence service carry out ongoing arrests in northern Syria, especially in Afrin district. Among these incidents was the arrest of Dr. Fahmy Abdo in April 2020 for unknown reasons²². Moreover, the Turkish state is working on changing the demographic structure through different methods in the Syrian Afrin until the Syrian structure is replaced by others who are loyal to the Turkish state ideology²³. It is worth highlighting that the Turkish state cut off the water supply, which is considered a severe violation of human rights, for 600 thousand people in regions of north-eastern Syria due to the political conflict between Turkey and the Kurds²⁴.

Furthermore, the Israeli security forces are continually targeting the Iranian presence in Damascus through warplanes or bombing using rockets, which leads, most probably, to civilians' death. Maat foundation for peace, development and human rights affirms its rejection for the clear violation from the Israeli forces towards of sovereignty of Syrian lands. Furthermore, Maat condemns the constant killing of civilians, which led to killing three civilians and wounding the other four, including a child, which were injured because of falling rockets shrapnel of the Israeli aggression on houses in towns of Al-hagira and Aladlia in the Damascus countryside on April 27th, 2020²⁵. In July 2020, Helicopters of the Israeli occupation targeted three sites in Quneitra in the southwestern of Syria using anti-tank missiles, which wounded two civilians²⁶.

¹⁶ <https://bit.ly/3kPAa0f> أبرز انتهاكات حقوق الإنسان في يوليو 2020 ، الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان ، يوليو 2020 ،

¹⁷ <https://bit.ly/3fY9RBz> أبرز انتهاكات حقوق الإنسان في مايو 2020 ، الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان، مايو 2020 ،

¹⁸ <https://bit.ly/315mneq> أبرز انتهاكات حقوق الإنسان في أبريل 2020 ، الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان، أبريل 2020 ،

¹⁹ <https://bit.ly/2Y6f9oy> أبرز انتهاكات حقوق الإنسان في يناير 2020 ، الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان، يناير 2020 ،

²⁰ <https://bit.ly/2XqCEHq> الجيش التركي يقصف 6 قرى بعفرين السورية بالأسلحة الثقيلة، العربية نت ، يناير 2020 ،

²¹ <https://bit.ly/2XxAPZl> تركيا تقصف مواقع كردية بسوريا للمرة الثانية خلال أيام، العين الإخبارية ، مارس 2020 ،

²² <https://bit.ly/3c73iuu> ، أبريل 2020 ، thelevantnews.com الانتهاكات الأمنية السياسي التابع لتركيا مستمرة في عفرين،

²³ <https://bit.ly/3gpIn97> الاحتلال التركي يصعد من انتهاكاته في عفرين لإجبار سكانها على النزوح، الوطن ، أبريل 2020 ،

²⁴ تركيا تكرر استخدام مياه علوك كسلاح خلال جائحة كوفيد 19 في سوريا، سوريين من أجل الحقيقي والعدالة، أبريل 2020 ، <https://bit.ly/2ZEcELy>.

²⁵ سوريا مقتل مدنيين بصواريخ إسرائيلية قادمة من فوق جنوب لبنان، قناة تي ديبلو الإخبارية، أبريل 2020 ،

<https://bit.ly/2TCLh0y>.

²⁶ <https://bit.ly/3avych2> إسرائيل تقصف 3 مواقع في القنيطرة بسوريا، الوطن ، يوليو 2020 ،