



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
27 September 2021

Original: English

---

## Human Rights Council

### Forty-eighth session

13 September–1 October 2021

Agenda items 3 and 4

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

**Human rights situations that require the Council's attention**

### **Note verbale dated 23 August 2021 from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council**

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva attaches herewith a letter dated 23 August 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, Ambassador Hussam Edin Aala, to the President of the Human Rights Council (see annex), and kindly requests that the present note verbale and the annex thereto<sup>1</sup> be translated into the official languages of the United Nations and circulated as a document of the Council under agenda items 3 and 4.

---

<sup>1</sup> Issued without formal editing.



**Annex to the note verbale dated 23 August 2021 from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council**

English  
[Original: Arabic]

Excellency,

I am writing to you, on instructions from my Government, concerning aggressive United States practices and hostile statements made by certain United States officials, including its positions on the occupied Syrian Golan and two statements issued at the meeting of the so-called Global Coalition to Defeat Daesh/ISIS and a smaller scale meeting on Syria that was held in Rome. The treacherous airstrikes carried out by United States aircraft at locations on the Syrian-Iraqi border and the illegal visits that certain United States officials make to northern Syria without authorization from the Syrian authorities are a continuation of the reckless policies of the previous United States Administration and reflect the contempt in which the current Administration holds the rules of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, human rights instruments and Security Council resolutions, all of which call for respect for the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Syria. The Syrian Arab Republic affirms its rejection of these unlawful practices and statements, which have come in the context of a propaganda campaign launched against the constitutional, presidential elections in Syria and have escalated to coincide with deliberations in the Security Council concerning the extension of the cross-border humanitarian aid delivery mechanism.

The responsibilities that the United States of America bears, as a permanent member of the Security Council, for maintaining international peace and security make it incumbent upon it to take the initiative and end its illegal occupation of part of Syrian territory, put a halt to the theft of oil, agricultural produce and cultural property that belong to the Syrian people, and to refrain from giving a false picture of its actions to deal with a crisis that it itself is principally responsible for creating and escalating through its terrorist agents and operatives in the region. From the outset of the crisis in Syria, the United States and its allies have used international forums, including the Human Rights Council, to engage in political hypocrisy and the peddling of lies and accusations that lack any credibility, all with a view to turning facts on their head and affording protection to the armed terrorist organizations and separatist militias that they use and recycle as and when the need arises. There is no doubt that this conduct undermines the credibility of the United States and renders it politically and morally unfit to play any role in restoring peace or in discussing humanitarian and human rights issues in Syria.

The ongoing plunder of Syrian natural resources and agricultural produce in the areas occupied by the United States in north-eastern Syria has hampered and continues to hamper the Syrian people's enjoyment of their fundamental rights, including the right to development; hundreds of cars, lorries and trucks carrying stolen oil and grain from Rif al-Hasakah regularly make illegal crossings via the al-Walid and Semalka border crossings. As for the numbers, last March a total of 150 wheat trucks and 500 oil trucks made the crossing, as compared with more than 133 vehicles in April and over 345 trucks in May. The recent revelation that the United States President Joe Biden intends to put a stop to the activities of the Delta Crescent Energy company, which helps to steal and transport oil extracted from Syrian territory, may be one piece of evidence pointing to the involvement of the United States Administration in these violations. These practices are incompatible with the right of peoples to permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources – a right enshrined as a principle of international law – and with the exercise of this right in the interest of the development and well-being of these peoples. They also are incompatible with the obligations of the Occupying Power to refrain from using the resources and wealth of the territories that it occupies to serve its own interests and prolong its occupation.

Her Excellency  
Ms. Nazhat Shameem Khan  
President of the Human Rights Council

After the aircraft of the illegal coalition led by the United States caused unprecedented human and material damage in the Syrian towns and villages that they targeted, under the pretext of fighting Da'esh/Isis, United States helicopters and jets provided air cover for violations carried out by separatist Qasad militia. These operations included raids on homes in Rif al-Hasakah, Raqqah and Deir al-Zor to abduct civilians who fight against the very presence and activities of these militia or to force them to join their ranks. As a result of these practices, the fates of scores of young people, children and older persons who have fallen victim to these operations remain unknown. By way of example, on 8 May 2021, these militia forces, with United States support, attacked homes in the village of al-Zar, in the eastern part of Rif Deir al-Zor, and abducted several young persons, taking them to unknown locations. A campaign of raids was carried out in the villages of al-Dardarah, al-Tash and Sulayman Sari in the Yarubiyah district and six young men were abducted and taken to an unknown location. On 4 February 2021, these forces attacked homes in the villages of Tall al-Shayir and Abu Hamdah to the south-east of al-Shaddadi in the south of Rif al-Hasakah and abducted several young men. On 14 January 2021, they abducted teachers from the town of al-Shaddadi.

In parallel, the United States occupation forces systematically conduct transfers of terrorists belonging to Da'esh/Isis from prisons run by Qasad separatist militia in al-Hasakah governorate to illegal United States bases in al-Shaddadi and al-Tanf. The objective is to reuse them to carry out their plans in Syria and in other areas or to remove evidence pointing to their involvement in the activities of this terrorist organization. To cite examples of the transfers of terrorists conducted since the beginning of this year, between 21 and 22 June 2021, more than 60 terrorists were transferred from the Industrial Secondary Prison in the city of al-Hasakah to the United States base in al-Shaddadi to the south of al-Hasakah. Between 7 and 13 April 2021, around 100 terrorists were transferred to the al-Amr oilfield after undergoing training that was delivered by United States occupation forces. Between 17 and 31 March 2021, 40 terrorists were moved from al-Hawl prison and other prisons south-east of al-Hasakah to the United States base in al-Shaddadi. On 28 February 2021, 10 terrorists were transferred from the al-Shaddadi base to the desert area of Deir al-Zor and 10 terrorists who had been transferred from the Industrial Secondary Prison on 26 February 2021 were moved to the al-Shaddadi base. In January 2021, 130 terrorists were transferred from the Industrial Secondary Prison and Al-Bulgar Camp to the al-Tanf base.

The Office of the Military Prosecutor-General in the Syrian Arab Republic, which is an integral part of the criminal justice system in Syria, had documented the compelling evidence that it has gleaned from close surveillance operations, inquiries and investigations conducted by units and agencies of the Syrian armed forces over the past years. It has established beyond doubt, and with compelling supporting evidence, that the United States is selecting large numbers of terrorists, some of whom belong to Da'esh and are detained in prisons run by groups loyal to it in the north-east of Syria, and is transferring them to these illegal bases. There, they receive intensive military training, usually for a three-week period, under the supervision of United States trainers and under the cover of training the so-called "Army of Revolutionaries", to be able to carry out sabotage and terrorist operations and to use modern surveillance equipment. The Office of the Military Prosecutor-General in the Syrian Arab Republic, in a press release issued on 9 June 2021, presented ample evidence to show that the United States was training terrorists in this way at its illegal military bases in Syria. This evidence included statements from some of these terrorists showing that they had been paid to launch direct attacks on Syrian State institutions and acknowledging that they had received training from United States forces.

In conclusion, the Syrian Arab Republic calls on the international community, the United Nations and the Human Rights Council to adopt a clear, impartial and balanced position with regard to the illegal practices and policies of the United States Administration in Syrian territory, including the continued imposition of suffocating economic sanctions through its escalation of unilateral economic measures against the Syrian people that impede the humanitarian and aid work of the United Nations and prevent the Syrian people from meeting their needs for food, medicine, services and livelihoods. The Syrian Arab Republic calls on the Human Rights Council and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to discharge their responsibilities, consistent with their respective mandates, for monitoring and condemning these violations and demanding that they cease,

especially in view of the systematic, chronic and urgent nature of these violations and the serious threat that they pose to fundamental rights. It calls on them, as organizations responsible for protecting and promoting human rights in the international domain in keeping with the principles of objectivity and non-selectivity, to pursue all means to hold the United States to account for the grave human rights violations that result from its unlawful activities against the Syrian Arab Republic in the context of its occupation of part of Syrian territory, and to submit practical recommendations to put a halt to these violations, ensure that they are not repeated and provide effect means to remedy the damage arising therefrom.

*Signed*

Hussam Edin Aala  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

---