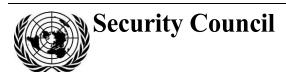
United Nations S/2016/368



Distr.: General 22 April 2016

Original: English

# Letter dated 21 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a letter dated 21 April 2016 from the Special Representative of the Syrian National Coalition to the United Nations, Najib Ghadbian (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the attached letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdallah Y. **Al-Mouallimi** Permanent Representative





# Annex to the letter dated 21 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the High Negotiations Committee of the Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces, and as requested by the Chief Coordinator of the Committee, Riad Hijab, it is my honour to transmit to you a letter from Riad Hijab dated 21 April 2016 (see enclosure), in which he discusses the violations of the cessation of hostilities agreement in Syria, with particular emphasis on the massacres of 19 April 2016.

(Signed) Najib **Ghadbian** Special Representative of the Syrian National Coalition to the United Nations

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#### **Enclosure**

On behalf of the High Negotiations Committee of the Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces, it is with great urgency that I draw your attention to the massacres in the Syrian towns of Kafr Nabl and Ma'arrat al-Nu'man, Idlib governorate, and the air strikes in Aleppo and Rif Dimashq committed by the Assad regime and its supporters on 19 April 2016. These massacres represent grave violations of the cessation of hostilities agreement and of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2254 (2015), 2258 (2015) and 2268 (2016).

On 19 April 2016, Assad regime aircraft bombarded the marketplaces of both Kafr Nabl and Ma'arrat al-Nu'man. In Kafr Nabl, local civil society groups report at least 10 people dead and 20 people injured. In Ma'arrat al-Nu'man, at least 45 people have died due to the attacks, while over 100 people have been reported as injured. These numbers are expected to rise as rescue workers recover more victims and more people lose their lives due to injuries. The majority of victims are innocent men, women and children shopping for and selling food as the bombs hit during peak business hours. The air strikes on civilian areas of Aleppo and Rif Dimashq resulted in at least 16 deaths, including of women and children.

Marketplaces are, naturally, civilian-populated areas, and these massacres demonstrate yet another example of the Assad regime's systematic policy of attacking Syrian civilians. Although the cessation of hostilities agreement went into effect on 27 February, violations by the Assad regime have steadily increased. Massacres like these, which take place in marketplaces, and last month's attacks on civilian-populated hospitals and schools not only take the lives of innocent civilians, but also threaten to break the already fragile cessation of hostilities agreement and to derail the legitimacy of the political process. In order to prevent the complete collapse of the agreement, save Syrian lives and combat impunity for these crimes, the international community and the Security Council must act with urgency:

- (a) To ensure the immediate protection of civilians from indiscriminate attacks by air and by land through rigorous monitoring of the cessation of hostilities agreement and by imposing clear and meaningful consequences for any violations;
- (b) To investigate these attacks without delay by sending an independent international task force to Kafr Nabl and Ma'arrat al-Nu'man with a mandate to report the facts and attribute culpability;
- (c) To seek accountability for crimes committed in Syria, including these massacres, by referring the situation to the International Criminal Court or, if obstacles to such referral persist, by seeking alternative forums for pursuing accountability, including through the implementation of Member States' rights to universal jurisdiction.

For over five years, the Syrian people have been subjected to brutalization by the Assad regime and its allies. The attacks in Kafr Nabl and Ma'arrat al-Nu'man—civilian centres populated by vendors and shoppers—are not the exception; they are the norm. The Assad regime has mercilessly targeted schools, hospitals and water facilities to subjugate local populations under its iron fist. The international community must take action now to prevent further atrocities. It must uphold the cessation of hostilities agreement and pressure the Assad regime to support a political transition that leads to a sustainable peace in Syria. Let us not betray the

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renewed hope that the Syrian people expressed through the re-emergence of peaceful demonstrations at the beginning of the cessation of hostilities for a peaceful transition to freedom, pluralism and a civic State for all.

(Signed) Riad **Hijab** Chief Coordinator of the High Negotiations Committee

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#### Attachment

[Original: Arabic and English]

# Victims of the Kafr Nabl and Ma'arrat al-Nu'man massacres

# 19 April 2016

#### Martyrs of the Kafr Nabl massacre

- 1. Hussein Youssef al-Saloum
- 2. Yassir Ahmed al-Dandoush
- 3. Mohammed Mahmoud al-Farous al-Sultan
- 4. Ahmed Badi Zatour
- 5. Hussein Jamal Saweed
- 6. Mustafa Hussan al-Qurat Rinsafra
- 7. Unidentified man
- 8. Unidentified man
- 9. Unidentified elderly man
- 10. Unidentified child

# Martyrs of the Ma'arrat al-Nu'man massacre

- 1. Balal Sabri
- 2. Mohammad al-Adalba
- 3. Mohammad Riad Hassoun
- 4. Zaher al-Hamouwi
- 5. Jamal al-Tabuou
- 6. Louay Darfeel
- 7. Wadah Mohammed Sultan Haidar
- 8. Mohammed Rajou
- 9. Osama Mohammed al-Shahna
- 10. Sami al-Shouaf
- 11. Ahmed al-Kurde Abou Qasem
- 12. Hashem Yahya al-Bayak
- 13. Yahya ibn Hashem al-Bayak
- 14. Kasir Sharif al-Deen
- 15. Abdel Qadir al-Adalba
- 16. Ayman Dahrouj
- 17. Rafae Haj Khalouf

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- 18. Ahmed al-Sabri
- 19. Anas Abdel al-Maein al-Sufi
- 20. Abdel Azeez Yaseen
- 21. Wafa Haj Khalouf
- 22. Mohammed Jabir al-Halabi
- 23. Hazem al-Kurdi Abdel Lateef
- 24. Mohammed Ziad al-Jarban
- 25. Saleh Rijou
- 26. Mohammed al-Asafer
- 27. Omar Sheikh Abiad
- 28. Balal al-Namdu
- 29. Amir al-Adlabi
- 30. Ali Suraqbi
- 31. Adnan Ahmed al-Shabeeb
- 32. Hussein al-Rasheed
- 33. Samr Bint Sabeh al-Tinara
- 34. Walid Huqawi
- 35. Hussein Hashah
- 36. Muhammad al-Rashid
- 37. Hussein al-Rashid
- 38. Abdel Kadeem al-Muhammed

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