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Prevention of armed conflict

The situation in the Middle East

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council

Seventy-seventh year

Identical letters dated 25 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, I should like to draw your attention to the hostile policies of and the alarming statements recently made by Turkish officials, led by the President of the Turkish regime, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, regarding the establishment of a 30-km deep “safe zone” in Syrian territory, in the north of the country, and the intention of the occupying Turkish forces to establish colonies in those Syrian areas and engage in military action deep in Syrian territory, in order to implement those illegal measures.

Aggression, occupation and demographic cleansing are the only legal and realistic characterizations that apply to the illegal Turkish presence in Syrian territory; my country reserves its right to take all measures allowed under the Charter of the United Nations and international law in order to put an end to the Turkish regime’s aggression, occupation and ethnic cleansing.

The Turkish regime’s efforts to establish a “safe zone” in Syrian territory is an act of aggression and a colonialist measure that enables the Government of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to plant a powder keg in Syria and continue sponsoring, arming and using armed terrorist organizations against the Syrian people, in order to serve the Turkish regime’s extremist agenda, which has become a major and growing threat to regional and international peace and security.

Any actions that have been or are being taken or any activities that have been or are being carried out by the Government of the Turkish regime in Syrian territory, at the forefront of which is its policy of ethnic cleansing in occupied Syrian territory, are illegal, void and do not give rise to any legal or actual effect. Instead, they can be characterized as war crimes and crimes against humanity because they are founded



on aggression and occupation, ethnic and social cleansing, and the expulsion and displacement of indigenous peoples from their homes and areas, the seizure of their property, homes and lands, and threatening their lives and future.

The Syrian Arab Republic stresses that its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and unity, which the Security Council has supported in all its resolutions concerning the situation in the country, must not be used as a bargaining chip in negotiations between the radical political regime that governs Turkey and threatens regional and international peace and security, on the one hand, and the colonialist North Atlantic Treaty Organization alliance, on the other, which is irresponsibly attempting to extend the conflict to this part of the world.

The Syrian Arab Republic warns the Governments of the States that are involved in this project, as well as individuals and non-governmental and international organizations, of the legal consequences of financing the projects and programmes being implemented by the occupying Turkish Government in occupied Syrian territory, and reserves the right to take the legal action needed to ensure accountability, prosecution and payment of compensation for the actions of the Turkish side and of every occupying power and actor that cooperates with it in carrying out, facilitating and financing aggression against public and private property in occupied Syrian territory. Syria also warns those who are collaborating with the United States occupiers in the north-east of the country of the consequences of giving the Turkish regime any fictitious pretexts to justify its colonial policies and plans in Syria.

My country, the Syrian Arab Republic, calls upon the United Nations and Member States to follow up on this grave matter with all seriousness and not to comply with or remain silent in the face of the coercive practices of the Turkish regime. In addition, Syria calls on the Secretary-General of the United Nations to evaluate the serious impact of those practices on his endeavours and those of his Special Envoy for Syria.

I should be grateful if these identical letters could be issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35 (a), 38, 66 and 111, and of the Security Council.

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