



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

30 June 2016

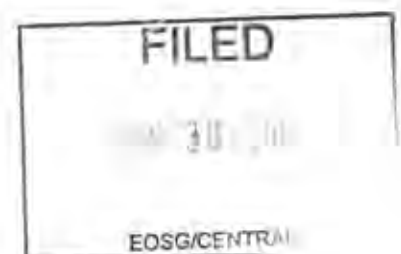
Excellency,

I refer to your joint letter of 14 June 2016, written on behalf of 59 Member States regarding the situation in Syria. The situation is indeed deplorable, and I fully concur with the deep concern you have expressed, most notably regarding the ongoing use of besiegement in Syria as a tactic of war, and the deprivation that comes with it, including reports of starvation. These tactics are unconscionable and demonstrate a continued disregard for international humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict, with more than two-thirds of such areas besieged by the Government of Syria. Such siege conditions must be lifted immediately.

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His Excellency
Mr. Oh Joon
Permanent Representative of the Republic
of Korea to the United Nations
New York



16-05613

704/03/004

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A similar letter has been sent to the other eight co-signatories.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

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BAN Ki-moon



EL SECRETARIO GENERAL

30 de junio de 2016

Excelentísima Señora:

Tengo el honor de referirme a la carta conjunta de 14 de junio de 2016 que me remitió en nombre de 59 Estados Miembros acerca de la situación en Siria. La situación es ciertamente lamentable, y coincido punto por punto con la profunda preocupación que han expresado, muy en particular respecto del uso continuo del asedio como táctica de guerra en Siria y las privaciones que ello conlleva, incluidos los informes recibidos de muertes por inanición. Esas tácticas son inadmisibles y demuestran el desprecio constante del derecho internacional humanitario por todas las partes en conflicto, máxime cuando más de dos terceras partes de esas zonas están sitiadas por el Gobierno de Siria. Los asedios deben levantarse de inmediato.

Como ya sabrá, las Naciones Unidas siguen aprovechando todas las posibilidades que se presentan de entregar alimentos, medicamentos y otras clases de asistencia a quienes la necesitan con urgencia en toda Siria, incluidas las zonas sitiadas y las de acceso difícil. En conjunto, las Naciones Unidas y sus socios entregan asistencia en la República Árabe Siria a millones de personas todos los meses mediante todas las modalidades, entre ellas la asistencia transfronteriza. Hasta la fecha y desde el comienzo del año, las operaciones de las Naciones Unidas nos han permitido llegar a unos 850.000 beneficiarios, de los cuales unos 330.000 se encontraban en zonas sitiadas, y en muchos casos en más de una ocasión. Si bien hasta cierto punto esto representa un avance, es insuficiente si se compara con el grado de privación y sufrimiento de la población. Por consiguiente, es vital mantener el impulso de ese acceso humanitario y ampliarlo durante el segundo semestre del año.

La población civil de Siria se ve sometida a un trato inhumano sistemático por todas las partes en el conflicto, trato que se extiende más allá de las zonas sitiadas y sigue siendo muy preocupante. Contemplo con horror cómo se suceden los bombardeos, los ataques de artillería y demás agresiones en zonas civiles densamente pobladas, que siguen causando un número tan elevado como inaceptable de víctimas civiles. Es preciso que los responsables de estos y otros crímenes rindan cuentas de sus actos.

Excelentísima Señora
María Emma Mejía Vélez
Representante Permanente de Colombia
ante las Naciones Unidas
Nueva York

Reitero mi solicitud de que se remita la situación de la República Árabe Siria a la Corte Penal Internacional.

Apoyo sin reservas el deseo del pueblo sirio de buscar una solución política en ese país que acabe con el sufrimiento de la población. A fin de cuentas, el socorro humanitario, con independencia de su grado de eficacia, no resolverá la crisis. El conflicto no puede zanjarse más que con una solución política. Insto a la comunidad internacional y a las partes sirias a que no se rindan, redoblen sus esfuerzos para poner fin a este conflicto y presten apoyo a mi Enviado Especial para facilitar una solución política.

Se ha enviado una carta similar a los otros ocho cosignatarios.

Aprovecho esta oportunidad para reiterar a Vuestra Excelencia las seguridades de mi consideración más distinguida.



BAN Ki-moon



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30 June 2016

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Her Excellency
Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani
Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar
to the United Nations
New York

I support without reservation the desire of the Syrian people for a political solution in Syria that brings their suffering to an end. Ultimately, humanitarian relief, no matter how effective, is not a solution to the crisis. Only a political solution can end the conflict. I urge the international community and Syrian stakeholders not to give up, but to redouble their efforts to bring an end to this conflict and to support my Special Envoy in order to facilitate a political resolution.

A similar letter has been sent to the other eight co-signatories.

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His Excellency
Mr. Abdallah Y. Al-Mouallimi
Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia
to the United Nations
New York

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LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Le 30 juin 2016

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,

Je me réfère à la lettre conjointe datée du 14 juin 2016 concernant la situation en Syrie que vous m'avez adressée au nom de 59 Etats Membres. Cette situation est assurément déplorable et je partage pleinement la profonde inquiétude que vous avez exprimée, tout particulièrement au sujet du recours constant au siège en Syrie en tant que tactique de guerre, et des privations qui en résultent, y compris la famine dont certaines informations font état. Cette tactique est absolument inadmissible et témoigne de la part de toutes les parties au conflit d'un mépris constant pour le droit international humanitaire, plus de deux tiers des zones touchées étant assiégées par le Gouvernement syrien. Cet état de siège doit être immédiatement levé.

Comme vous le savez, l'Organisation des Nations Unies continue d'explorer toutes les voies possibles pour livrer des vivres et des médicaments et apporter à ceux qui en ont besoin partout en Syrie d'autres formes d'assistance faisant particulièrement défaut, y compris dans les zones assiégées et difficiles d'accès. Globalement, l'Organisation et ses partenaires apportent chaque mois une assistance à des millions de personnes en Syrie par tous les moyens, y compris par-delà les frontières. Les opérations menées à ce jour, dont beaucoup l'ont été à plusieurs reprises, ont bénéficié à 850 000 personnes depuis le début de l'année, y compris 330 000 personnes vivant dans des zones assiégées. Si cela représente un certain progrès, cela reste insuffisant par rapport à l'ampleur des besoins et des souffrances de la population. Il est donc vital que l'élan en termes d'accès humanitaire soit maintenu et s'accroisse au cours de la deuxième moitié de l'année.

Les civils subissent en Syrie des souffrances et un traitement inhumain que leur imposent systématiquement toutes les parties au conflit, au-delà même des seules zones assiégées. Cela est profondément inquiétant. Je suis horrifié par les bombardements, les pilonnages et les autres attaques qui visent incessamment des zones civiles densément peuplées, et continuent de faire parmi les civils un nombre intolérablement élevé de victimes. Les auteurs de ces crimes et des autres violations doivent répondre de leurs actes.

Son Excellence
Monsieur Fodé Seck
Représentant permanent de la République du Sénégal
auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies
New York

Je demande de nouveau que la situation en République arabe syrienne soit déférée à la Cour pénale internationale.

Je soutiens sans réserve l'aspiration du peuple syrien à une solution politique qui mette fin à ses souffrances. L'action humanitaire, aussi efficace soit-elle, ne constitue pas à terme une solution à la crise. Seule une solution politique peut mettre fin au conflit. J'exhorte la communauté internationale et les parties prenantes syriennes à ne pas capituler, mais à redoubler d'efforts pour mettre fin à ce conflit et à aider mon Envoyé spécial à faciliter un règlement pacifique par la voie politique.

Une lettre similaire a été envoyée aux huit autres cosignataires.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, les assurances de ma très haute considération.

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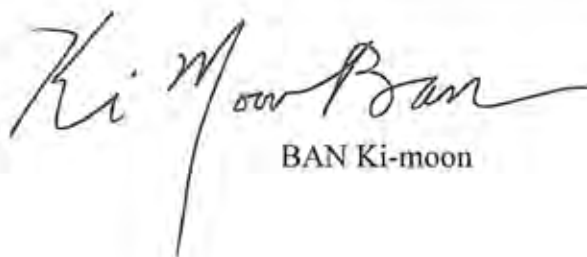
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His Excellency
Mr. Y. Halit Çevik
Permanent Representative of Turkey
to the United Nations
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His Excellency
Mr. Volodymyr Yelchenko
Permanent Representative of Ukraine
to the United Nations
New York

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His Excellency
Mr. Matthew Rycroft, CBE
Permanent Representative
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland to the United Nations
New York

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Her Excellency
Ms. Samantha Power
Permanent Representative
of the United States of America
to the United Nations
New York

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9 letters for SG's signature on Syria

1. Excelentísima Señora María Emma Mejía Vélez, Representante Permanente de Colombia ante las Naciones Unidas.
2. Her Excellency Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations.
3. His Excellency Mr. Oh Joon, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations.
4. His Excellency Mr. Abdallah Y. Al-Mouallimi, Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations.
5. Son Excellence Monsieur Fodé Seck, Représentant permanent de la République du Sénégal auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies.
6. His Excellency Mr. Y. Halit Çevik, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations.
7. His Excellency Mr. Volodymyr Yelchenko, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations.
8. His Excellency Mr. Matthew Rycroft, CBE, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations.
9. Her Excellency Ms. Samantha Power, Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

Drafter: OCHA

Proofread by: AK/MZ/DP/NN

Approved by:



Date: 30 June 2016

United Nations



Nations Unies

*Executive Office of the Secretary-General
Cabinet du Secrétaire général*

To: DSG (through OCDC),

Please find attached for your approval and SG's signature letters addressed to 9 PRs (list enclosed), in reply to their joint letter of 14 June on behalf of 59 Member States, regarding the situation in Syria

AK

Political Unit
29 June 2016

Received in ODSG

29 June 2016

Seen by:

HL FZ

ACTION *LA*
COPY *LSB*
cdl

draft in
color

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

RECEIVED

JUN 22 2016

16-05613

REGISTRATION

ROUTING SLIP
OCHA-OUSG Office

FICHE DE TRANSMISSION

TO: CdC A:		Date: 22 June 2016
FROM: Stephen O'Brien, Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator <i>Stephen O'Brien</i>		
SUBJECT: SG draft letter on the situation in Syria <i>Ref # 16-05373</i> OBJET:		
FOR ACTION		POUR SUITE A DONNER
FOR APPROVAL		POUR APPROBATION
FOR SIGNATURE	✓	POUR SIGNATURE
FOR COMMENTS		POUR OBSERVATIONS



PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



Permanent
Mission of the
Kingdom of
Saudi Arabia
to the
United Nations



Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the UN

United Kingdom
Mission to the
United Nations

RECEIVED

JUN 14 2016

16-05373

DISSEMINATED

ACTION O'Brien / Feltman
COPY b5b, rdc

Sengul, Suresh 14 June 2016

Your Excellency,

We have the honour to write to you on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Yemen.

We express our deepest concern at the ongoing grave humanitarian situation in Syria, the continued violations of the cessation of hostilities, the lack of protection of civilians and in particular the devastating conditions inside Syria's besieged and hard-to-reach areas. The Secretary-General reiterated on 14 January 2016 that "the use of starvation as a weapon of war is a war crime". We stress the urgent need for the immediate, full, unimpeded, and sustained access for the delivery of humanitarian aid, consistent with the relevant Security Council resolutions and for parties to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law.

OCHA/NY Rm, NY HK Aust
J3 PM 34 71

H.E. Ban-Ki moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

JUN 15 2016

Focal Point: **AN** by: **22 Jan 10**

Info copy to: SROs, IAC, LYS, JB, AL, HT, PLE, AN, TO
DP, SW, WK, LO, VM, DCA, AL, KA, KY, AH, SE, MC,
SA, OT, FI, FJ, SW, OCHG-2010-040

Page 2/004

We welcome the 17 May statement issued by the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) calling for immediate, unimpeded and sustained humanitarian access to all people in need throughout Syria, as defined by the UN and called for in UNSCR 2254. In this regard, we reiterate that the delivery of aid through humanitarian aid convoys to besieged areas is the most effective way to allow sustainable humanitarian support. We urge the Security Council to uphold its responsibilities, including by focusing on the protection of civilians, including ending the Syrian regime's starvation and siege tactics; and to further support the ISSG's efforts to that end. The ISSG called for the World Food Programme (WFP) to immediately carry out a program for air bridges and air drops if humanitarian access is denied to any of the UN designated besieged areas by June 1. In this regard, we take note of the presentation on 9 June 2016 by WFP of an Operational Plan for Air Operations to Besieged Areas in Syria.

According to the United Nations, there are currently 4.6 million people living in hard-to-reach areas in Syria. In these areas, the situation is critical. Men, women and children are regularly denied humanitarian aid and needlessly suffer from malnourishment and disease.

The United Nations estimates that 592,700 people are besieged in 19 locations across Syria. The reality confronting Syria's besieged communities is abominable. Basic food staples are denied to children, women and men. Babies are denied milk and left to starve. The sick are denied medical supplies and left to die. Nowhere is the humanitarian situation more dire than in Syria's besieged areas. The UN Special Envoy has called these conditions "medieval".

The devastating conditions inside Syria's besieged and hard-to-reach areas are as preventable as they are heinous. The United Nations has stated that it stands ready to deliver assistance to all civilians in need, including in hard-to-reach and besieged areas. The Security Council has called repeatedly for immediate, full, unimpeded, and sustained access to all areas. Yet, since the start of the Syrian conflict, the Syrian regime in particular has deliberately besieged cities as a tactic of war. According to the UN Secretary-General, the Syrian regime is responsible for 78 percent of the sieges, while ISIS is responsible for nearly 19 percent and other non-state armed actors are responsible for 3 percent. Sieges directed against civilians are violations of international humanitarian law and must be lifted with immediate effect.

We strongly condemn the denial of humanitarian access to those in need, and call on all parties to allow and facilitate immediate, full, unimpeded, and sustained access of humanitarian relief to all areas, including besieged communities, as well as hard-to-reach areas, where the needs of the civilian population continue to grow. This includes the necessary guarantees for the safety and security of the humanitarian actors, including medical missions.

We express our strong support for the conclusions reached by the ISSG, during its ministerial meeting of 17 May 2016, which, if implemented in full, have the capacity to improve the humanitarian situation for hundreds of thousands in Syria and enhance efforts to achieve a political solution. We support the ISSG's call for the WFP to airdrop aid to all areas in need beginning June 1st, should access continue to be denied to Syria's besieged areas.

It is imperative that immediate, full, unimpeded, and sustained assistance be provided and strictly on the basis of need, as determined by the UN, without any adverse distinction and in particular into besieged areas. We also reaffirm the importance of preserving humanitarian space for principled humanitarian action. We urge the Security Council and all Member States to take appropriate measures to alleviate humanitarian suffering and to ensure that humanitarian assistance is provided, including medical assistance, to all in need in Syria. No one in Syria should have to live in fear of starvation.

In parallel, the Security Council must intensify its focus on the effective implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities in Syria. It is incomprehensible to our Governments that people in Syria continue to be subjected to unconscionable violence of an historic scale, including attacks against medical facilities, schools, market places and IDP camps, while no sufficient efforts have been undertaken to protect civilians or ensure accountability. As the Syrian authorities are unwilling to investigate and prosecute international crimes, the international community must take the appropriate measures to promote accountability for these crimes. Violations of international humanitarian law committed by all parties to the conflict must stop and perpetrators should be held to account.

✓ Furthermore, we reiterate that the humanitarian situation will continue to deteriorate in the absence of a political solution. We hence urge all parties to work towards a genuine political transition, which would include the establishment of a broad, inclusive, non-sectarian transitional governing body with full executive powers in line with UNSCR 2254 including the full implementation of the Geneva Communiqué. We fully support the efforts of the Secretary General's Special Envoy for Syria in this regard. ✓

The resolve of the ISSG creates new opportunities to end starvation across Syria. It is imperative we do not let those opportunities go to waste. On behalf of our respective governments, we reiterate our appeal to the Security Council to support the ISSG's efforts, most particularly in ensuring immediate, full, unimpeded, and sustained humanitarian access in Syria. ✓

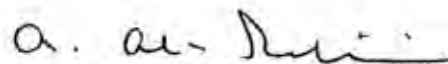
For too long, the Syrian people have been subjected to unconscionable violence and starvation. We, the undersigned, have repeatedly condemned the crisis in Syria and the ongoing use of violence. Condemnations are not enough. Syria is the crisis of our time. How we, as members of the United Nations choose to respond to the Syrian crisis, will define our legacy for future generations.

Your Excellency, Identical letters have been sent to the President of the Security Council and the President of the General Assembly.

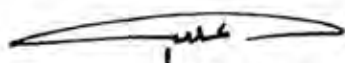
Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.



María Emma Mejía Vélez
Permanent Representative of Colombia
to the United Nations



Abdallah Y. Al-Mouallimi
Chair of the Gulf Cooperation Council
Permanent Representative of Saudi
Arabia to the United Nations



Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani
Permanent Representative of the
State of Qatar to the United Nations



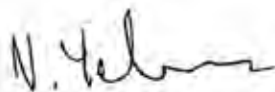
Oh Joon
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Korea to the United Nations



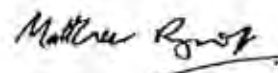
Fodé Seck
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Senegal to the United Nations



Güven Begeç
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of the
Republic of Turkey to the United Nations



Volodymyr Yelchenko
Permanent Representative of the
Ukraine to the United Nations



Matthew Rycroft, CBE
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland to the United Nations



Samantha Power
Permanent Representative of the
United States of America to the United Nations