

United Nations



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Executive Office of the Secretary-General  
Cabinet du Secrétaire général

To: DSG,

Please find attached for your approval on behalf of the SG, his report on the occupied Syrian Golan.

Please note that the report has been approved by EOSG in September and was issued earlier this month. However due to technical reasons, and upon a persistent request from the Government of Syria to add new information to the report, it was decided that the electronic version of the report will be retrieved from DGACM and the new one will be re-issued, upon clearance from EOSG.

The new information is highlighted in bold in paras 3, 6, 8, 10 and 13. PU has no objections to the revisions.

AK

Political Unit  
21 October 2013

Cc: CDC

Received in ODSG

21 October 2013

Seen by: **RECEIVED**

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UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR • INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM



A: Mr. Jan Eliasson  
TO: Deputy Secretary-General

DATE: 21 October 2013

DE: Ms. Navi Pillay  
FROM: High Commissioner for Human Rights

REFERENCE:

OBJET: Adding new information to the report of the Secretary-General on the occupied  
SUBJECT: Syrian Golan (68/378)

1. Please find attached, for clearance, the updated report of the Secretary-General on the occupied Syrian Golan (68/378). This report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/122 of 14 January 2013 (resolution attached). The report will be formally presented to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.
2. An earlier version of this report was cleared by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG), and the report was issued on 8 October 2013. However, due to technical reasons, and upon a persistent request of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to add new information to the report in early October, the electronic version of the report will be retrieved from DCAGM as agreed with the EOSG.
3. Based on information shared by the Syrian Permanent Mission, on 10 October 2013, OHCHR updated the report. The new information is highlighted in bold in paragraphs 3, 6, 8, 10 and 13.
4. As per practice the revised report was shared with the Syrian Permanent Mission for factual comments. The Syrian Permanent Mission responded on 21 October 2013 requesting to make two minor editorial changes. OHCHR has accepted this request and made the necessary changes in the attached report.
5. Once cleared by you, the report should be re-issued prior to the General Assembly session on the situation in the occupied Syrian Golan.
6. It is likely that this report will generate criticism from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic. In the past the Government has criticized the report for its lack of substance.
7. I would appreciate your approval of the report.

Ref #  
13-07980

Jan Eliasson

Date:

October 21, 2013

United Nations

A/68/378



## General Assembly

Distr.: General  
11 September 2013

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### Sixty-eighth session

Item 52 of the provisional agenda\*

**Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli  
Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian  
People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories**

### **The occupied Syrian Golan**

### **Report of the Secretary-General**

#### *Summary*

The report has been prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/122, in which the Secretary-General was requested to report to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the implementation of the resolution.

\* A/68/150.





1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/122.
2. On 8 May 2013, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), on behalf of the Secretary-General, addressed a note verbale to the Government of Israel, asking the Government to provide information on any steps that it had taken or envisaged taking concerning the implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.
3. Also on 8 May 2013, OHCHR, on behalf of the Secretary-General, sent a note verbale to the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic and to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva, asking the Governments of Member States to provide information on any steps they had taken or envisaged taking concerning the implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution. **In addition to the response from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic through two notes verbales dated 31 May 2013, and 10 October 2013, replies were received from the Permanent Missions of Colombia, Cuba and Burkina Faso.**
4. In its reply the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic noted that, in its resolution, the General Assembly had renewed its deep concern over the Israeli occupation of the Golan since 1967 and condemned it. The Syrian Arab Republic stated that the General Assembly confirmed that the decision of the Israeli Government to impose Israeli laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Syrian Golan since 14 December 1981 was unlawful.
5. The Syrian Arab Republic recalled that, after 46 years of occupation and despite repeated international calls on Israel to withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan, Israel continued to occupy this territory in impunity and in flagrant violation of international law and norms.
6. The Syrian Arab Republic affirmed that the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East requires the implementation of the United Nations resolutions that aim at ending the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan and other Arab territories. **In its notes verbales, the Syrian Arab Republic** stated that President Bashar al-Assad had shown on more than one occasion his willingness to resume peace negotiations on the same basis on which the Madrid peace process was started in 1991. It also noted that the Syrian Arab Republic had declared in all international forums its full commitment to relevant international resolutions and called for their implementation, in particular Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 497 (1981). The Syrian Arab Republic also called for the implementation of the principle of land for peace, in order to ensure the full withdrawal by Israel from all of the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967.
7. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic strongly condemned the continued Israeli practices that affect the rights of Syrians, including the decision taken by Israel in June 2011 to build a separation wall to the east of Majdal al-Shams in the occupied Syrian Golan under the pretext that it will prevent Palestinians and Syrians from crossing the ceasefire line to access the occupied town of Majdal al-Shams. The Syrian Arab Republic noted that the construction of the wall (8 m high) started in July 2011.

8. In its notes verbales, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic condemns the Israeli settlement policy in the occupied Syrian Golan, noting that Israel continues to disregard the resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly on the matter, more specifically resolution 67/25, in which, it is noted, the Assembly confirmed the illegality of the settlements and other Israeli activities in the occupied Syrian Golan, and resolution 67/122, in which the Assembly reiterated its call on Israel to desist from changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan. In this context, the Syrian Arab Republic referred to a statement made by the President of the Regional Council of Israeli Settlements during the first business conference organised in the occupied Syrian Golan, stating that "demographic growth of the Golan settlers constituted a pillar of the Israeli economy in the Golan." During the same event the Minister of Finance called upon businessmen and companies to invest in that area and to take advantage of its resources and potentials "in light of very attractive governmental facilities." The Syrian Arab Republic made a reference to the plan of the Regional Council of Israeli Settlements to accommodate 1,500 new families, and establish 750 housing units in the 33 existing settlements in occupied Syrian Golan. A reference was also made to a survey carried out by the Regional Council of Israeli Settlements aiming at improving the settlements in the occupied Syrian Golan to attract new settlers and encourage those who live there to stay. In addition, the Syrian Arab Republic referred to a recent decision of the Regional Council of Israeli Settlements and the National Council for Road Safety in Israel to develop and maintain roads to facilitate the access to Israeli settlements, with the sole aim of ensuring the safety of the increasing settlers and tourists in that area. Development of these roads will entail also the development of additional infrastructure, including rest stations. While, on the other hand, roads leading to and from occupied villages are subjected to deterioration and destruction as a result of the use of tanks and heavy military vehicles in the vicinity.

9. The Syrian Arab Republic condemns the European Union's funding of a survey aimed at promoting alternative tourism in the Israeli settlements in the occupied Syrian Golan. It also condemns Israeli practices and conduct which control and loot resources in the occupied Syrian Golan in flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and General Assembly resolution 67/229 on the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources.

10. The Syrian Arab Republic calls upon the States Members of the United Nations to refuse, in accordance with their obligations under international law, the importation of natural or manufactured products from the occupied territories, and to remind Israel about its obligations under international law. In this context, the Syrian Arab Republic referred to three olive oil production facilities in Israeli settlement in occupied Syrian Golan that were granted awards during the international competition for olive oil "Terra Olivio" in Jerusalem. The Syrian Arab Republic stressed that the participation of European countries in this competition is a flagrant violation of international law, and brings support for marketing products manufactured in occupied Arab territories, including



occupied Syrian Golan, while illegally being labelled as Israeli products. The Syrian Arab Republic also condemned the allocation of 915 hectares of land for the establishment of four wineries, as well as tourist centres that sell agricultural products from occupied Syrian Golan as Israeli products. The Syrian Arab Republic notes that it sent a letter to the Security Council on 28 February 2013 (A/67/771-S/2013/122) requesting Israel to stop oil exploration in the occupied Syrian Golan. The Syrian Arab Republic condemns the extraction of water by Israel from the Masada Lake in 2010 in order to establish a settlers' farm, considering that it constitutes a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and had led to an economic and environmental disaster for the occupied Syrian Golan, estimated at US\$ 20 million. The Syrian Arab Republic also referred to one incident where military exercises undertaken by the occupying Power destroyed the live-stock of one of the residents of the occupied Syrian Golan.

11. The Syrian Arab Republic rejects the decision by the Knesset, on 22 November 2010, to organize a general referendum on the withdrawal of Israel from the Syrian Golan and East Jerusalem. According to the Syrian Arab Republic, this decision is a violation of international law, which stipulates that a territory shall not be acquired by force. The Syrian Arab Republic considers that the decision is in violation with Security Council resolution 497 (1981).

12. The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its request to the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the President of the Human Rights Council and the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross to bring pressure on Israel to ensure that Syrian prisoners detained in its jails are kept in more humane health conditions, recalling the cases of Syrian nationals Majed Shaer and his son Fidaa (see A/66/400, para 10). The Syrian Arab Republic condemned Israel for arresting a number of young people, including former prisoner Bishr al-Maqt and Zaher Batich, the President of the Golan Sports Union, because they refused to hold a match in the Majdal al-Shams stadium under the supervision of the Israeli Football Association. Consequently, the young men were sentenced to home confinement. In this context, the Syrian Arab Republic recalls that in 1981 the people of the Golan issued a national document forbidding any activity with or in association with the occupying Power.

13. As in previous notes verbales, the Syrian Arab Republic calls for international pressure on Israel to allow the Syrian population of the occupied Syrian Golan to visit their families in the Syrian Arab Republic through Qunëitra. **The Syrian Arab Republic referred to the decision of Israel to deny the passage of Umayyah Al Nasser, a resident of occupied Syrian Golan, to other parts of the Syrian motherland to attend her father's funeral.** According to the Syrian Arab Republic, Israeli practices in the occupied Syrian Golan, which lead to the suffering of Syrians, are in violation of the Geneva Conventions and customary international humanitarian law.

14. The Syrian Arab Republic concluded by stating that reaching sustainable peace and stability in the Middle East requires the adoption of measures ensuring the enforcement of all relevant international resolutions, including the Geneva Conventions, without discrimination or selectivity.

15. On 27 May 2013, the Permanent Mission of Colombia replied to the note verbale stating that it had not taken measures that are detrimental to General Assembly resolutions. Colombia affirmed that the use of force to obtain territories is

inadmissible and reiterated its support to the achievement of durable peace in the region through dialogue.

16. On 4 June 2013, the Permanent Mission of Cuba replied to the note verbale. Cuba noted that the decision taken by Israel on 14 December 1981 to impose its legislation, jurisdiction and administration in the occupied Syrian Golan, and to construct Israeli settlements on this territory since 1967, constitute a flagrant violation of international law, international conventions, the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions of the United Nations, in particular Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949.

17. Cuba calls upon Israel to withdraw from all of the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967 and condemns the brutal Israeli practices in the prisons created during the Israeli occupation, reiterating its serious concerns over the inhuman conditions of those detained in the occupied Syrian Golan. Cuba demanded that Israel immediately and unconditionally fulfil the requirements of the Fourth Geneva Convention and its application to the Syrians detained in the occupied Syrian Golan.

18. Cuba notes that, in line with the Arab Peace Initiative and the Madrid peace process, and in conformity with relevant Security Council resolutions, the 120 nations that are members of the Non-Aligned Movement have expressed their unconditional support and solidarity with the just and right demand of the Syrian Arab Republic to reinstate its full sovereignty over the occupied Syrian Golan. As in previous notes verbales, Cuba considers that the occupation of the Syrian Golan and its de facto annexation by Israel constitute an obstacle to the achievement of just, complete and durable peace in the region.

19. On 6 August 2013, the Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso replied to the note verbale condemning all forms of occupation and recalling its commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and other international conventions. Burkina Faso called upon the Member States involved in the Golan situation to respect Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and the General Assembly resolution. Burkina Faso stressed that peace in the Middle East should be achieved through dialogue.