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GENERAL

Date: 28 May 2014

30 May 2014

Dear Mr. Brahimi,

I would like to express my profound appreciation for the remarkable determination with which you have carried out your mission as Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria.

You have faced almost impossible odds in dealing with a hopelessly divided Syrian nation, region and international community. Yet for nearly two years, you have worked relentlessly towards a political solution to the devastating Syrian conflict with incredible skill and patience.

I deeply regret that the parties, especially the Syrian Government, have proven so reluctant to take advantage of the opportunity to end the tragic suffering faced by their people. Yet your arduous and persistent efforts in pursuit of a negotiated solution to the conflict, in consultation with the regional and international community, in particular with the United States and the Russian Federation, have established fundamental relationships with a lasting impact. And, remarkably, you have made history by bringing the Syrian sides to the table for the first time.

The United Nations and I are immensely grateful for the legacy that you leave behind, as I am convinced that we will eventually achieve an inevitable political resolution to this conflict. Your outstanding expertise in diplomacy has allowed us to invest in a better future for the Syrian people, although the objective has proved elusive in the immediate term.

While I am deeply disappointed that your efforts have not received effective support from the United Nations body that is charged with upholding peace and security, and from countries with influence on the situation in Syria, I consider this to be a failure of the international community, one of the lowest moments of international relations in our time.

Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi
Joint Special Representative of the United Nations
and the League of Arab States for Syria
Geneva

While I regretfully have accepted your decision to relinquish your duties, I remain grateful for your lasting contributions in ending the misery of the Syrian people, and I look forward to continuing to count on your wisdom, advice and unique experience on issues of concern to the United Nations. Please accept my warmest wishes and my earnest gratitude.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ki Moon Ban". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ki" and last name "Ban" being more prominent than the middle name "Moon".

BAN/Ki-moon