



**THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE SYRIAN ARAB
REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary General of the United Nations, and following the Mission's letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, including the recent letters No 741 dated 6th December 2013 and No 730 dated 3rd December 2013, regarding the terrorist attacks perpetrated by terrorist armed groups in Syria,

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic would like to express its concern about the general approach taken by the Spokesperson Office of the Secretary-General, during daily press briefings, with regard to assessment of the situation in Syria, whether in terms of ignoring the existence of terrorism and extremism in Syria, as well as by adopting unverified and hasty information without verification of the facts.

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic would like herein to highlight some examples with regard to the approach taken by the Spokesperson office of the Secretary-General, as follows:

1- Despite the fact that the Syrian Mission is providing the Secretariat and the relevant UN entities, regularly, with updated information about terrorist attacks committed by armed terrorist groups, which are classified as such even in the United Nations Security Council, it has been unfortunately noticed that the Spokesperson office of the Secretary-General failed, in its press briefing dated 12/10/2013, to condemn clearly the most recent terrorist attacks related to the abduction of nuns from a church in the Syrian city of Ma'aloula, and also the destruction and burning of several churches in this particular city. Moreover, and despite that the abducting groups, affiliated to the "Al-Nusra terrorist group" which is an "Al-Qaeda affiliated group", admitted publicly of their responsibility on these terrorist attacks, the spokesperson missed this important information regarding the identity of the kidnapping party, taking into account that the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic provided in its letter, No 730 dated 3rd December 2013, details regarding that regrettable incident including information about the kidnapping party affiliated to terrorist group, not to mention that, this information was publically published by media. However, it was surprising to see the Spokesperson office of the Secretary-General referring to kidnapped nuns as "missed nuns".

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2- The Spokesperson Office of the Secretary-General condones the serious information related to the Israeli violations with regard to the Israel's delivery of supplies, including military supplies, across Disengagement Area at the separation line in the Occupied Syrian Golan. These particular Israeli violations constitute a flagrant violation of the Disengagement Agreement signed in 1974, as well as the other relevant Security Council resolutions, especially these violations were publically admitted by the Israeli Defense Minister "Moshe Ya'alon". These admissions were reported by the Israeli media, which reported also that these Israeli violations were mediated by some of UNDOF personnel. The position of the Secretariat's spokesperson has been shown through many of his responses on the questions of correspondents, including the press conference dated 12/5/2013.

3- The Spokesperson Office of the Secretary-General builds information of press briefings on unverified accusations or allegations taken from Media sources. This was clearly noticed by adopting, including during the briefing dated 11/7/2013, irresponsible and unaccepted allegations which accused the Syrian Armed Forces of carrying out military actions against Irish soldiers serving in the UN Peacekeeping's Mission in the Occupied Syrian Golan (UNDOF). The Syrian Mission clarified that terrorist groups are the perpetrators of that violation. Moreover, the Irish officials affirmed in many occasions that the Irish soldiers and Unit were targeted by the terrorist armed groups. However, the Spokesperson Office of the Secretary-General dose not, yet, correct the previous mistakes in this regard during its subsequent briefings.

4- It was noted also that there were huge differences in the percentages mentioned by the spokesperson related to the humanitarian assistance provided by the Syrian Government, in cooperation with relevant UN agencies, to the Syrian people affected by the current situation. In this context, the Syrian Mission refers to the figures mentioned by the Secretariat's spokesperson in his press briefing, dated 11/21/2013, which did not reflect the exact percentages documented by the Syrian Government reports, as well as in the relevant UN agencies reports, including in the latest report of OCHA, which covers the period of 11/19- 12/2/2013.

Taking into consideration that the United Nations is an integral part of the serious preparation of the Geneva 2 conference, the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic kindly request the Secretary-General to provide a clear guidance to his spokesperson' office, particularly with regard to verifying sources of information before adopting and announcing them as an official position of the Secretariat of the United Nations. The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic also expects that all the above mentioned inaccurate statements, made by the Spokesperson Office of the Secretary-General, will be corrected as soon as possible.

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

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki Moon
Secretary General of the United Nations

