



Security Council

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Identical letters dated 23 December 2020 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 convey to you the following information.

Since December 2019, the Turkish authorities have intensified their efforts to recruit mercenaries and dispatch them regularly by air and sea to fight in Libya following the conclusion by the Turkish authorities and the Government of National Accord of Libya of an agreement concerning the delimitation of their maritime boundary. My country has stated its position regarding that agreement in a letter that was issued as document [A/74/381](#). The Turkish city of Gaziantep and the Syrian city of Afrin have become major centres for the recruitment of Syrian and foreign mercenaries. Those mercenaries are brought to training camps in northern Syria and then transported on Turkish Air Force aircraft from southern Turkey to the airports of Istanbul and Ankara. From there, Libyan civilian aircraft take them to Misrata and Tripoli. Upon their arrival, they are barracked at Libyan Government of National Accord strongholds, including the Khandaq camp in Tajura' and the Busalim neighbourhood in the southern part of the capital, Tripoli, as well as in the Aradah and Ayn Zarah areas. Those mercenaries are recruited from the Sultan Murad Division, the Hamzat Division, the Sultan Sulayman Shah Division, the Mu'tasim Brigade, the Levant Falcons Brigade and the Samarkand Division factions, which form the core of the so-called Syrian National Army terrorist organization. Mercenaries are also recruited from the Hurras al-Din and Levant Liberation Organization/Nusrah Front terrorist organizations.

Some 16,000 mercenaries are in Libya, including fighters who are Syrian, Somali and Tunisian nationals. Turkey gave those mercenaries military training in its territory and offered them financial inducements before transferring them to Libya. Each mercenary receives a monthly salary that ranges from \$3,000 to \$5,000 and medical care, and is entitled to a death benefit. Syrians are promised that they will be granted Turkish citizenship, and Tunisian, Somali and Syrian nationals are given Libyan passports.

The Turkish occupiers have also sent 2,000 terrorists from their affiliated terrorist factions in Syria to participate in the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict, offering salaries of up to \$1,800. The Hawks of the North terrorist faction, which is led by the terrorist Hasan Khayriah from the town of Kansafrah, Idlib Governorate, has sent more than 400 terrorists. Another 250 terrorists have been sent from each of the so-called Elite Forces and the Sultan Murad Division, while 200 more terrorists have



been withdrawn from Libya for that purpose. Anyone who does not comply with the decision is executed by firing squad, as stated in the text of the Turkish decision.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, in conveying this alarming information to both the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, trusts that the Security Council will fulfil its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations by halting the violations of international law and the Charter being committed by the Turkish regime and by obliging it to stop sponsoring and supporting terrorism and trafficking mercenaries in order to threaten peace and security in the region and around the world.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Bashar Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
