The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and in reference to the joint letter addressed by the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of freedom of peaceful assembly and of association (communication No. UA G/SO 217/1 G/SO 214 (67-17) Assembly & Association (2010-1) SYR 10/2012) dated 8 November 2012 regarding the cases of Messrs. Abdelaziz al-Khayer, Iyas Ayash and Maher Tahan, would like to bring to the attention of the Chair-Rapporteur and the Special Rapporteurs that the concerned authorities in the Syrian Arab Republic have confirmed that the abovementioned individuals are not in the custody of any law enforcement or security authority in Syria, and that no information is available regarding their whereabouts.

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic avails itself of this opportunity to renew to The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the assurances of its highest consideration.