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 High Commissioner for Human Rights, Chair- Rapporteur of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, Chair- Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom opinion and expression, Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and in reference to note (Ref: UA G/SO 218/2 Cultural rights(2009) G/SO 214 (67-17) G/SO 214 (3-3-16) G/SO 214 (53-24)) dated 22/1/2014, regarding the joint urgent appeal by the above-mentioned mandate holders about the case of Akram Raslan, would like to clarify the following:

Mr. Raslan was arrested for publishing cartoons offending the state’s prestige, and he is still under investigation by the competent authority.

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Chair- Rapporteur of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, Chair- Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom opinion and expression, Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or Involuntary Disappearances the assurance of its highest consideration.