



No: 193

Date: 17 October 2020

**Your Excellency Mr. António Guterres,
Secretary-General of the United Nations,**

**Honorable representatives of the member states of the United Nations General
Assembly,**

The National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces sends you its kind greetings and wishes the United Nations Secretariat success in its duties to achieve security, peace and development, to protect human rights and respect international law.

Syrians are approaching their tenth year, and more than half of them are displaced from their homes, in numbers of more than 13.5 million, most of them children and women displaced between areas of displacement and countries of asylum;

Whereas Syrian refugees constitute more than a third of all refugees in the world;

With the increase in human suffering and the increasing numbers and needs, we are writing to you to approach the view of the crisis in a way that focuses on the root of the problem, to combat its causes, and not suffice to alleviate its symptoms.

We affirm that forced displacement with the aim of changing demographics is one of the basic strategies adopted by [REDACTED] and announced starting in 2011, in order to get rid of its opponents, or those who might be in the ranks of its opponents, and in order to replace them with others, announcing this in each of its used slogans, [REDACTED] no one [REDACTED] we burn the country." In [REDACTED] description of the Syrian people with the germs that the body has to get rid of" and in the statement of one of his senior officials that "the population of Syria should return to 8 million as it was in 1970."

This confirms [REDACTED] declaration in 2017 of his criminal harvest by saying that Syria has become a homogeneous society, referring to this to the 13 million displaced Syrians between countries of asylum, camps and areas of displacement.

The facts confirm that revenge against the Syrian people is not just a goal of the ruling authority in Syria as it is a mechanism that it adopts to change the demography, using a set of planned behaviors, alternating and repeated, such as prosecution and arrest, and the publication of pictures of atrocities of torture and inhumane dealings in prisons and roads, and by leaking lists of millions of wanted people, To push them and their families to leave the country, and by deliberately withdrawing from some areas that refuse to support it, bomb it, destroy it, besiege it and starve it, in preparation for its people to acquiesce in accepting reconciliations that lead to their displacement, by uprooting them from their roots and the land of their fathers and grandfathers;

[REDACTED] regime seeks to narrow the opportunities and motives for the return of refugees, by seizing their homes and properties, and by trying to legitimize this through judicial decisions of seizure and confiscation issued against them, and through its successive legislations after 2011, such as Decree 63 of 2012, Decree 66 and Law 10 to implement the confiscation, and to reorganize areas that were originally organized in Under the



circumstances of the absence of their owners, and by granting investment and ownership privileges in them to others in place of the indigenous population for political or sectarian reasons, Law No. 11 was issued for this in 2011 and permits foreign ownership in Syria, just as it issued a decision to establish the Syrian-Iranian Business Council. This council is allowed to purchase real estate and register it in its name and in the name of A large number of newly naturalized foreigners, as Law No. 19 issued to establish holding companies that own large real estate in vital areas, in a plan implemented to stabilize the facts and effects of forced displacement, and to bring about changes in the legal positions of rights holders, in a way that complicates the scene, and changes the economic, social and political balances in Syria and the region, in a way that impedes the right of return;

The same results and systematic behavior appear in the PYD - YPG / PKK-controlled areas, where nearly two million of its displaced people are still outside it;

We affirm that the Syrian refugees yearn to return, and adhere to their right to do so, and await the day their areas are liberated from the authorities of tyranny and terrorism, so that they return;

We refer to four hundred and fourteen thousand and sixty-nine Syrians (414,069) people who have already returned to the northern regions of Syria after their liberation from the regime and terrorist militias.

We recall the efforts of the Syrian National Coalition and its interim government in this regard, and we appreciate the support of the Turkish Republic, and a number of friendly countries in these regions.

Likewise, we affirm that the stay of the resident Syrians, and the return of refugees to our liberated areas, requires international assistance to the Syrian National Coalition and its interim government in logistical implementation of projects to support stability, provide humanitarian needs, and protect the people from repeated terrorist bombings committed to destabilizing security and peace and impede our efforts to build adequate standards for rule of Law;

And based on the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the two special international covenants, the 1951 Geneva Convention and its protocols, the four Geneva Conventions and their annexes, and the Rome Statute, which stipulates in its Article No. 7 that premeditated killing or causing severe suffering or serious harm to the body or physical health Or mentality, whenever the attack is directed against any group of the civilian population, a behavioral approach that includes repeated commission of the acts referred to in the article, and applies to the examples we presented above in our memorandum;

And to the basic principle of non-refoulement, which affirms that a refugee should not be returned to a country where he would face a serious threat to his life or freedom. This is now considered a rule of customary international law;

We warn that some parties try to circumvent international standards and propose projects to return refugees to regime-held areas, with the aim of achieving political and economic gains.



Based on Security Council Resolution 2254 (2015), which affirms in its Article No. 14 the need to create conditions conducive to the safe and voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons to their original places of residence in accordance with international law and the Refugee Convention and its Protocols;

And based on the rest of the relevant international resolutions issued by the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council and the Security Council, in particular Resolution 2118;

And by virtue of the mandate of the Syrian National Coalition, and in accordance with the wide international recognition it has enjoyed as the legitimate representative of the Syrian people, and based on the reference to this to United Nations General Assembly Resolution 67/262, we request the following:

- 1- Entering our memo in the documents of the General Assembly and circulating it among the missions of the member states;
- 2- Approaching the solution of the refugee crisis through serious and productive work to achieve a complete and real political transition in Syria, in accordance with the Geneva Communiqué, Security Council Resolutions 2118 and 2254, General Assembly Resolution 67/262 and other relevant resolutions;
- 3- Rejecting refugee return projects before reaching a political solution, and providing the safe and neutral environment necessary for voluntary return;
- 4- Real pressure on the regime, Russia and Iran to stop their hostile attacks on Idlib and their return to the borders of the four de-escalation zones, specified in the memorandum of understanding concluded in Astana, so that the people of the areas from which they were displaced can return to it;
- 5- Initiate an international campaign to support the establishment of a safe zone in northern Syria;
- 6- Initiate measures to ensure accountability for perpetrators of violations and prevent impunity for the regime, Russia and Iran;
- 7- Respect the 1951 Geneva Convention regarding refugees, treat arrivals in transit countries according to its provisions, and stop violating their rights in some countries, and from exerting any pressure on them to push them to forcible return;
- 8- Equity for refugee victims by compensating them financially and morally for the physical and psychological damage they suffered as a result of the actions of elements of those countries
- 9- International cooperation with the Syrian National Coalition in the northern regions of Syria, and providing the necessary support to its institutions in order to implement projects to support stability, combat terrorism, and protect people from terrorist bombings targeting our region.

Please accept the assurances of my highest regards.

Dr. Nasr Alhariri
President

National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces

