

الائتلاف الوطني لقوى
الثورة و المعارضة السورية



National Coalition of Syrian
Revolution and Opposition Forces

Representative Office to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Oh Joon
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations
President of the UN Security Council

28 May 2014

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the people of Syria and the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces (Syrian Coalition), it is my grave responsibility to draw to your attention the Syrian regime's ongoing, systematic violations of UN Security Council Resolution 2139. As the UN Security Council deliberates its response to the third report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 2139, it is imperative that it act with new urgency to enforce international humanitarian law and implement immediate and sustained cross-border access to all areas in Syria where people are in need, as demanded by UN Security Council Resolution 2139.

Your Excellency, on 2 October 2013, the UN Security Council adopted its Presidential Statement in which it called upon all parties in Syria to support the delivery of humanitarian emergency assistance on the basis of need, devoid of political prejudices and aims. Outraged by the Syrian regime's failure to uphold S/PRST/2013/15, on 22 February 2014, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted UN Security Council 2139 in which it demanded that all parties, but in particular the Syrian regime, implement the provisions of S/PRST/2013/15 and facilitate the immediate expansion of humanitarian relief operations, including by enabling cross-border access.

Almost eight months after the adoption of S/PRST/2013/15, the humanitarian situation in Syria has worsened—not improved. As a result, a million more Syrians now live in besieged or hard-to-reach areas. 50,000 more Syrian lives have been lost and 2 million more people have been driven from their homes. Rather than strive to ease the suffering of its people, the Syrian regime has systematically employed new modes of oppression in a calculated strategy designed to starve, terrorise and brutalise the Syrian people into submission.

Among the most egregious crimes it's committed since the adoption of S/PRST/2013/15, the Syrian regime has launched aerial strikes in civilian areas, employed new chemical weapons attacks using chlorine gas in violation of Security Council 2118 (2013), including by deploying barrel bombs filled with chlorine gas against civilians in opposition areas. Moreover, the regime and its forces have blocked cross-border aid access to over 1 million Syrians in now impossible-to-reach areas, denied access to human rights monitors, and obstructed the passage of medical supplies. Tragically and outrageously, the regime has significantly increased the indiscriminate use of barrel bombs since the Secretary General's report on 2139 last month, with over 140 strikes in that time period targeting predominately residential buildings and neighbourhoods in opposition controlled areas.

Despite the Syrian regime's clear legal and ethical obligation to cease such practices, the humanitarian situation in Syria has only deteriorated in recent weeks. Since the Secretary-General last reported on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 2139, an array of new and unnecessary bureaucratic impediments imposed by Syrian regime officials have ensured that access to people in hard-to-reach areas has decreased dramatically. From April to May 2014, the number of Syrians served by the World Food Programme in hard-to-reach areas declined by more than 66 percent. Despite the adoption of Security Council Resolution 2139, assistance continues to be provided in a politicized and unjustifiable manner, thereby placing millions in peril.

Your Excellency, the cooperation demonstrated by the Syrian Coalition and its partner, the Free Syrian Army, offers a marked contrast to the intransigence of the Syrian regime. As part of our efforts to implement Security Council Resolution 2139, we have:

1. **Engaged OCHA:** Throughout the past three months, we have engaged in verbal and written communications with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and have transmitted detailed information pertaining to border crossings, epidemiology and polio eradication. The Assistance Coordination Unit (ACU) has provided information clarifying the needs of the Syrian population and the local relief agencies working to provide care. Through the Information Management Unit, the ACU has shared data related to the freedom of movement of relief agencies, violence against humanitarian personnel, restrictions to aid access, the locations of active hostilities and the presence of mines and explosives that affect the delivery of humanitarian assistance. We will be sharing with OCHA this information and numerous recent reports.
2. **Designated Empowered Individuals:** To facilitate increased information sharing with OCHA, the Syrian Coalition has appointed a team of officials to facilitate communication between OCHA and opposition bodies (including the Coalition, the ACU, the Interim Government, and Free Syrian Army forces on the ground), and is providing those names to OCHA, in order to support the implementation of Security Council Resolution 2139. Their appointments are expected to encourage direct communication to enable delivery of assistance and ensure that greater numbers of Syrians receive life-saving access to food, water and medicine. The Coalition notes, of course, that some communications will necessarily vary depending on the relevant actors and geographic areas, and that there are some areas controlled by extremist groups.
3. **Committed to Facilitate Access to Hard-to-Reach Areas:** Particularly in the provinces of Homs, Al-Hasakah and Latakia, where tens of thousands of residents require urgent assistance, the Syrian Coalition believes it can work productively with groups in control of opposition-held areas to discuss, prepare and implement the delivery of humanitarian assistance. As we have stated repeatedly, the Syrian Coalition and Free Syrian Army are committed to providing access to all Syrians in need—irrespective of their religion, ethnicity, geography or politics. No Syrian should have to go without food, water, medicine or urgently needed care. Furthermore, the Coalition welcomed the decision of the OPCW to investigate recent regime use of chlorine gas, and despite obstacles on the ground, the Free Syrian Army played a positive role in facilitating access to difficult-to-reach sites of investigation in Kafr Zita.
4. **Pledged to Uphold Humanitarian Law and Demilitarize Schools and Hospitals:** The Syrian Coalition and Free Syrian Army have repeatedly pledged their commitment to upholding humanitarian law, including through the demilitarization of schools and hospitals. In April, officials from both organizations pledged to take all efforts needed to demilitarize schools and hospitals. As promised, the Free Syrian Army is currently working to amend its Proclamation of Principles to reflect this commitment.

5. **Worked to Implement the Geneva Communiqué:** The Syrian Coalition has likewise been steadfast in its commitment to secure the full implementation of the Geneva Communiqué, as required by OP 15 of UN Security Council Resolution 2139. We were deeply appreciative of Joint Special Representative Brahimi's efforts to bring forward a political settlement to the crisis in Syria, and shared his frustration regarding the Syrian regime's refusal to engage constructively in the peace process. Following announcement of his impending resignation, the Syrian Coalition reached out to the UN's Department of Political Affairs in an effort to continue our dialogue in the search for a political solution. We remain committed to the Geneva process, and continue to believe that a political solution offers the best opportunity for long-term peace in Syria.

As important as such efforts are, however, they alone cannot counteract the brutality of the Syrian regime. It remains incumbent upon the Security Council to take all measures necessary to ensure the full and immediate implementation of Security Council Resolution 2139. Vital to this effort is the provision of cross-border access.

In his latest report to the UN Security Council on the Implementation of Resolution 2139, the Secretary-General noted the UN's readiness to put in place arrangements at key border and line crossings to facilitate, improve and monitor access—including a mechanism which would ensure that access is obtained to areas outside of the regime's effective control. The Security Council must now take measures to ensure that the UN follows through on this commitment, as demanded by Security Council Resolution 2139.

Your Excellency, it is unfathomable that the will of a brutal dictator should be allowed to supersede the needs of an innocent people. The Security Council must act without delay to enforce Security Council Resolution 2139 by ensuring effective cross-border access. Doing so would alter the lives of over 1 million Syrians. As we have stated previously, the Syrian Coalition and the Free Syrian Army stand ready to facilitate cross-border access in areas under our jurisdiction, including at the Tal Shihab cross point with Jordan, and we look forward to providing all assistance necessary to ease the suffering of our people.

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



Dr. Najib Ghadbian
Special Representative to the US



**Annex I: Syrian Coalition and Free Syrian Army Compliance with
UN Security Council Resolution 2139**

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(i) OP4: All parties must facilitate the expansion of humanitarian relief operations.

Assistance Coordination Unit

- The Assistance Coordination Unit (ACU) was formed in December 2012 by the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces to coordinate urgently needed assistance to all those affected by the humanitarian crisis in Syria. The ACU coordinates the delivery of aid impartially to all Syrians regardless of ethnicity, religion, or political beliefs, in line with international standards and human rights principles that aid should be given on the basis of need alone. Since its inception, the ACU has worked to facilitate and direct the delivery of urgent humanitarian supplies, including medicine and food, to towns and cities across Syria. The ACU works with local councils and local aid groups, international donors and aid agencies, and international and local NGOs to identify areas of need and link donors with actors on the ground. The ACU has also played an important role in highlighting Syria's urgent humanitarian needs, producing professional and high-quality technical assessments for humanitarian and relief needs.
- The ACU employs approximately 80 enumerators in its Information Management Unit. Data collection for each type of report may vary, however some general principles and limitations remain consistent across all reports. Both qualitative and quantitative data are gathered using direct observations and key informant interviews of relief committees, registration offices, religious leaders, local organizations, heads of household, medical staff, teachers and local police. Public places, such as schools, field hospitals, water points, markets, cemeteries and small shops, are also visited to complement interviews with direct observation.
- The ACU's Information Management Unit provides population figures based on estimates made on the ground by observers which are then compared to existing registration lists, beneficiary lists, and local knowledge or secondary data verifications.
- The ACU's Information Management Unit provides regular status updates regarding border crossings at Bab Al Salameh, Tal Abyad, Jarablus, and Bab Al Hawa. Each report is provided in English and Arabic, with a corresponding map including logos for each type of traffic: travelers, cargo, and relief. Updates also include information on the time of day each border crossing opens and closes. This data is shared on a daily or near-daily basis with the ACU's donor list.



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- In the area of humanitarian access, the ACU's Information Management Unit tracks restriction of movement for relief agencies; violence against relief agencies, personnel, facilities or assets; interference in humanitarian activities; availability of local partners; restrictions or obstruction of beneficiaries to access the aid; active hostilities affecting humanitarian assistance; and presence of mines and explosives affecting delivery of humanitarian assistance.
- There are some limitations on the data collected by the ACU and its agents. The security situation varies from one governorate to another, which causes inconsistent degrees of detail in data collection. Population data is very difficult to track reliably and to verify. When data is not considered sufficiently valid, it may not be included in final reporting.
- The ACU's EWARN EPI report studies instances of infectious disease, including measles, cutaneous leishmaniasis, hepatitis, typhoid fever, tuberculosis, whooping cough, scabies and lice, and their corresponding treatment and morbidity rates. This data is shared on a weekly basis.
- The ACU's Polio Outbreak Report records reporting of instances of Acute Flaccid Paralysis, a potential indicator symptom of polio, and provides follow-up once samples have been collected and tested. This data is shared on a weekly basis.
- In January 2014, the ACU launched its first Dynamic Situation Monitoring (DYNAMO) Report, which contains detailed information on the needs of Syrians inside the country's borders and reports on 79 sub-districts in Syria. The DYNAMO Report covers demographics inside Syria, humanitarian access, the severity of need, locations where relief agencies are working, aid coordination, food, WASH, education, shelter, non-food items, and health.
- We will be providing recent reports to OCHA, containing extensive details that will be helpful to the provision of humanitarian access.

- (ii) **OP5, OP6, OP7, OP8, OP16: All parties must allow the delivery of humanitarian assistance, grant humanitarian access, including cross-border/cross-line, and facilitate the efforts of the UN.**

Empowered Individuals

- To facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, the Coalition's Political Committee appointed the following individuals and empowered them to work with the UN on issues related to humanitarian access under UNSCR 2139, under the oversight of the Committee and its Secretary-General Hadi al Bahra:
 - Coalition Vice President Noura al Ameer



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- President of Assistance Coordination Unit Suheir Atassi
- Chief Executive Officer of Assistance Coordination Unit Osama Kadi
- Military Liaison Hakim Nazir
- Horan Revolutionary Council Representative Dr. Musa Nasr al-Hariri
- Attorney Mohammed Sabra

Homs Province

- The majority of the areas in Homs Province listed below are under the control of Local Councils whereas the roads leading to these areas remain under the Syrian regime's control. We believe we can facilitate communication between OCHA and the groups in control of the opposition-held areas in order to discuss, prepare and implement the delivery of humanitarian and medical assistance.
- There are 16,000 residents in Taldo city in the Houla district of Homs Province. Of those 16,000 residents, there are 600 children in need of infant milk, 280 families of martyrs, 70 orphans under the age of 15, and 90 disabled. There is a dire need for both humanitarian assistance and medicine in this area, including but not limited to, food baskets for 2,500 families and 5 tons of flour daily.
- There are 22,500 residents in Kafr Laha city in the Houla district of Homs Province. Of those 22,500 residents, there are 800 children in need of infant milk, 122 families of martyrs, 300 orphans under the age of 15, and 100 disabled. There is a dire need for both humanitarian assistance and medicine in this area, including but not limited to, food baskets for 3,000 families and 7 tons of flour daily.
- There are 17,500 residents in Taltheeb city in the Houla district of Homs Province. Of those 17,500 residents, there are 400 children in need of infant milk, 100 families of martyrs, 70 orphans under the age of 15, and 150 disabled. There is a dire need for both humanitarian assistance and medicine in this area, including but not limited to, food baskets for 2000 families and 7 tons of flour daily.
- There are 5,000 residents in Tayba city in the Houla district of Homs Province. Of those 5,000 residents, there are 50 children in need of infant milk, 25 families of martyrs, 25 orphans under the age of 15, and 20 disabled. There is a dire need for both humanitarian assistance and medicine in this area, including but not limited to, food baskets for 500 families and 1.5 tons of flour daily.
- There are 3,000 residents in the cities of Birj/al-Samaleel/Keseen in the Houla district of Homs Province. Of those 3,000 residents, there are 90 children in need of infant milk, 25 families of martyrs, 25 orphans under the age of 15, and 20 disabled. There is a dire need



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for both humanitarian assistance and medicine in this area, including but not limited to, food baskets for 300 families and 1 ton of flour daily.

- There are 55,000 residents in Talbeesah city in the Talbeesah district of Homs Province. Of those 55,000 residents, there are 1,730 children in need of infant milk. There is a dire need for both humanitarian assistance and medicine in this area, including but not limited to, food baskets for 5,700 families and 14.5 tons of flour daily.
- There are 15,000 residents in Ghanto city in the Ghanto district of Homs Province. Of those 15,000 residents, there are 680 children in need of infant milk, 147 families of martyrs, and 325 orphans under the age of 15. There is a dire need for both humanitarian assistance and medicine in this area, including but not limited to, food baskets for 1,800 families and 4 tons of flour daily.
- There are 57,750 residents in al-Rastan city in the al-Rastan district of Homs Province. Of those 57,750 residents, there are 1,500 children in need of infant milk and 1,050 families of martyrs. There is a dire need for both humanitarian assistance and medicine in this area, including but not limited to, food baskets for 6,000 families and 15 tons of flour daily.
- There are 17,000 residents in Tir Maala city in the Tir Maala district of Homs Province. Of those 17,000 residents, there are 675 children in need of infant milk. There is a dire need for both humanitarian assistance and medicine in this area, including but not limited to, food baskets for 2,700 families and 5 tons of flour daily.
- There are 125,000 residents in Waer city in the Waer district of Homs Province. Of those 125,000 residents, there are 3,500 children in need of infant milk. There is a dire need for both humanitarian assistance and medicine in this area, including but not limited to, food baskets for 14,000 families and 40 tons of flour daily.
- The majority of the residents in al-Zara, al-Hasn and al-Qusayr cities in Homs Province have fled following the Syrian Government's ethnic cleansing of those areas and are now residing in refugee camps in Lebanon and in the surrounding border areas.

Al-Hasakah Province

- The cities of Abu Rasin, Al-Hasakeh city, Al-Malikeyyeh, Amuda, Bir Elhilu, Darbasiyah, Jawadiyah, Qamishli, Ras Al Ain, Tal Hmis and Ya'robiyah in the Al-Hasakeh Province are controlled by Local Administrative Councils. We believe we can facilitate communication between OCHA and the groups in control of these opposition-held areas in order to discuss, prepare, and implement the delivery of humanitarian assistance.



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- The cities of Areesheh, Hole, and Shaddadah in the Al-Hasakeh Province remain under the control of the Syrian regime.

Lattakia Province

- The regions of Kansaba, Rabee'a, and Salma in the Lattakia Province are opposition controlled. Within these respective regions are municipalities that are still controlled by the Syrian regime. The municipality of Qastal Maaf in the Lattakia Province is under the Syrian regime's control while the affiliated villages are under opposition control. We believe we can facilitate communication between OCHA and the groups in control of the opposition-held areas in order to discuss, prepare, and implement the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

(iii) OP10: All parties demilitarize medical facilities, schools and other civilian facilities.

- The Free Syrian Army fully supports the demilitarization of all schools and hospitals. The Syrian Opposition Coalition and the Supreme Military Council stand ready to work with the international community to ensure the immediate and complete demilitarization of all schools and hospitals under our jurisdiction.
- The Free Syrian Army issued an official declaration signed by President Ahmad al Jarba and Chief of Staff of the Supreme Military Council General Abdulelah al Bashir, entitled "FSA Calls for the Immediate Demilitarization of Schools and Hospitals" prohibiting the militarization of schools and hospitals and will amend its Proclamation of Principles to reflect the same.
- Meanwhile, the Syrian regime has used institutions once designated for the care and education of Syrian citizens to shelter its combatants, store arms and ammunition, and to serve as military observation posts and shields for military action.
- Indeed, the Syrian regime continues to deliberately target hospitals and schools in direct contravention to Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions of 1949.
- On 27 April 2014, a Syrian regime warplane hit the Generation Freedom School in Qah, Idlib Province with a fuel air bomb killing two children and injuring many others. The Generation Freedom School provides elementary and intermediate education to 800 students, many of whom are internally displaced.
- On 1 May 2014, a Syrian regime warplane hit the Ein Jalout School in Eastern Aleppo, killing 19 people, including 10 children, and injuring many others.

(iv) OP15: All parties must work towards the implementation of the Geneva Communique

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- The goal of the Geneva Conference was the full implementation of the Geneva Communiqué, beginning with the establishment of a transitional governing body exercising full executive powers, which could include members of the present Government and the opposition and other groups, and would be formed on the basis of mutual consent.
- The Syrian Coalition came to Geneva in January and February 2014 prepared to engage proactively and constructively to reach a political solution to the Syrian conflict.
- At every session, the Syrian Coalition put forward positive and implementable positions. The Assad regime came prepared only to obfuscate and delay. Repeatedly, the regime's delegation showed itself unwilling to address the core issues raised in the Geneva Communiqué.
- During the Geneva negotiations, the Syrian Coalition introduced a Statement of Basic Principles, which proposed a framework for transition. However, the Syrian regime refused to discuss it.
- The Syrian Coalition diversified its representation during the Geneva process, including by bringing representatives from armed groups during the second round of negotiations.
- The Syrian Coalition adopted the Declaration of Commitment on Compliance with IHL and the Facilitation of Humanitarian Assistance and sent a letter on 19 March 2014 to Under-Secretary-General Amos confirming this (Annex II).
- The Syrian Coalition further adopted the Communiqué to Eliminate Sexual Violence in April 2014 which pledges to issue clear orders prohibiting sexual violence, implement specific commitments to ensure timely investigation of alleged abuses and designate a high-level representative to cooperate with the Special Representative on Sexual Violence to ensure the full implementation of the communiqué.
- On May 15, the Coalition released a statement in response to news of the resignation of JSR Brahimi, stating in relevant part: "We appreciate Mr. Brahimi's work to try to bring a political settlement to the conflict in Syria. We share his frustration with the Assad regime for not engaging constructively in the political process. The Syrian Coalition remains committed to a political process. But it is clear that the regime will not desist from its brutal military campaign and engage in a political process until it is compelled to do so. That will require concerted international pressure that has so far been lacking."
- The Coalition established contact with the UN DPA after JSR Brahimi's resignation in order to set up future meetings and continue the dialogue regarding a political resolution.
- A delegation including the President of the Coalition and Chief of Staff of the Supreme Military Council of the Free Syrian Army held numerous high level meetings in Washington, DC in the month of May, including meetings with legislative and executive officials (such as US President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry) and leading INGOs who work in Syria. One of the delegation's primary messages was to stand firmly with a political solution to the conflict for the long term and, in the immediate term, urge support for UNSCR 2139 and push for full implementation of its humanitarian access provisions.