

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
28 July 2017

Original: English

Letter dated 25 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you the attached letter dated 24 July 2017 on humanitarian access in the Syrian Arab Republic from the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva, Julian Braithwaite (see annex).

I would be most grateful if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Matthew **Rycroft**



Annex to the letter dated 25 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

We, representatives of some of the permanent missions in Geneva that attend weekly meetings of the Task Force on Humanitarian Access, recall the relevant resolutions of the Security Council concerning humanitarian access in the Syrian Arab Republic, namely resolutions [2139 \(2014\)](#), [2165 \(2014\)](#), [2191 \(2014\)](#), [2254 \(2015\)](#), [2258 \(2015\)](#), [2268 \(2016\)](#) and [2332 \(2016\)](#). We are writing to raise a number of serious concerns about the implementation of those resolutions.

We remain extremely concerned that the United Nations is being excluded from sending humanitarian convoys to besieged and hard-to-reach areas inside Syria. The trend has worsened significantly in recent months. According to the United Nations, only two United Nations-supported convoys have been able to gain access to territory besieged by the Syrian authorities since April 2017.

We are very concerned at the continued lack of cross-line humanitarian deliveries, protection of civilians, medical access and freedom of movement in those areas. In its resolution [2139 \(2014\)](#), the Council clearly articulated its unanimous demands concerning not only humanitarian access, but also the requirement that all parties comply with international humanitarian law. Medical and other aid is urgently needed by the population. We must also see the Syrian authorities fulfil their obligations under international humanitarian law.

We urge the Council to underline to States Members of the United Nations, in particular the Syrian authorities: (a) the protections enjoyed by civilians and medical missions under international humanitarian law; and (b) the need for the United Nations to determine the planning, delivery and monitoring of cross-line humanitarian assistance. We hope the Council will help secure unimpeded United Nations humanitarian access to all areas of the Syrian Arab Republic.

We hope you will be able to raise urgently this vital issue at the next Council meeting and that the Council will take action pursuant to resolution [2139 \(2014\)](#), given the stated intent of the Council to “take further steps in the case of non-compliance” with that resolution.

Julian Braithwaite
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland to the United Nations Office
and other international organizations in Geneva

Elisabeth Laurin
Ambassador
Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations Office at Geneva
and other international organizations in Switzerland

Antje Leendertse
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the
United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Maurizio Enrico Luigi **Serra**
Ambassador
Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations Office
and other international organizations in Geneva

Junichi **Ihara**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations Office
and other international organizations in Geneva

Monique **van Daalen**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the
United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Ali Khalfan **Al-Mansouri**
Ambassador
Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations Office
and other international organizations in Geneva

Abdulaziz **Alwasil**
Ambassador
Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the
United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Peter **Sørensen**
Ambassador and Head
Permanent Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations Office
and other international organizations in Geneva

Victorio **Redondo Baldrich**
Ambassador and Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations Office
and other international organizations in Geneva

Tanya **Bennett**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations Office
and other international organizations in Geneva

John **Davison**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations Office
and other international organizations in Geneva

Berk **Baran**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva
and other international organizations in Switzerland

Theodore **Allegra**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the
United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva