
Translated from French

Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations

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The Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations and, with reference to memorandum LA/COD/4 of 15 June 2012 concerning the report submitted by Syria on 17 May 2012 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/30 on the protection of diplomatic missions, has the honour to inform it of the measures taken by Belgium following the incidents at the embassy of Syria in Brussels.

The embassy of Syria in Brussels has indeed been targeted by several acts of vandalism and a break-in that resulted in damage outside and inside the building.

The incidents reported to the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs by the embassy of Syria are being investigated and followed up. In addition, the Belgian authorities have put in place proactive security measures.

Meetings on the protection of the Syrian embassy have been organized with the participation of all of the authorities responsible for security in Belgium. The Threat Assessment Coordination Body is often requested to assess the threat level to the Syrian embassy and tailor the various protective security measures accordingly.

The investigation into the graffiti, along with a substantial police deployment, led to the arrest of perpetrators who were caught in the act. The case is pending before the Belgian courts.

The swift response of the police officers who were called to the scene when the embassy was broken into and ransacked led to the detention of several individuals who were

BAN Ki-moon

Secretary-General

caught in the act. A criminal investigation is under way.

The Belgian authorities are currently examining the options with regard to compensation for the costs incurred as a result of the damage.

Since the break-in and damage to the outside and inside of the building, the embassy of Syria has been kept under constant surveillance by a permanent police presence. The Belgian authorities deploy additional capacity when demonstrations take place in front of the embassy. The residence of the ambassador of Syria is now under increased protection and is frequently patrolled by police.

The Belgian security and justice authorities are following up the issue with all of the necessary attention.

The Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations takes the opportunity to convey to the Secretariat of the United Nations the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.