



**Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
to the United Nations**

685 3rd Ave., Suite 1108, New York, NY 10017 • Tel: (212) 599-0950 • Fax: (212) 599-1020 •

[svgmission@gmail.com](mailto:svgmission@gmail.com) | <http://svg-un.org>

**Statement**

By

**H.E. I. Rhonda King**  
Permanent Representative

The Situation in the Middle East (Syria – Political)

**United Nations Security Council**

6 February, 2020

New York

Please check against delivery

Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you Geir and Mark for your briefings and for your tireless efforts to restore peace in Syria.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remains deeply troubled by the reports of violence and escalating tensions in northwest Syria. We are disheartened to hear that the situation has intensified and so too have the humanitarian consequences. What was intended to be a de-escalation zone is now the potential epicenter for anguish. We, therefore, call for an immediate cessation of all hostilities to prevent further human suffering.

Continuing along the path of combat will only serve to impede humanitarian access to those in desperate need of it, trigger a further displacement of civilians and, if calmer heads do not prevail, will only continue to result in the loss of life. We strongly condemn attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure, particularly health and education services, and we implore all parties to this conflict to recommit to a ceasefire. That being said, we appreciate the steps being taken by the Russian Federation and Turkey to enhance coordination of their respective countries' actions in Syria. It is our hope that these efforts will promote a de-escalation and help to preserve life.

We also remind parties that military and counter-terrorism operations must comply with the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law. Distinction, proportionality and precaution ought to guide all activities. On this point, we reiterate that peace and justice are interdependent. Atrocities committed in violation of international law should not be ignored and perpetrators must be held accountable.

Mr. President,

As this conflict rages on and as the humanitarian situation worsens, it is apparent now more than ever that there is a need for a Syrian-owned and Syrian-led political solution. We echo our support for all efforts in this regard. A political solution is the only path to lasting peace and stability.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reaffirms its respect for the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Syria. The actions of the international community must have regard for

the perspectives of the Syrian government, as it is for the Syrian people to determine the future of their country.

Indeed, Mr President, it is the Syrian people who are paying the highest price of this conflict with their suffering. They have lost their safety, their stability and calm. It is them that this Council must continue to speak for.