



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

**UN Human Rights Council
HRC 27th Session – ITEM 4 – September 2014**

ID with COI on Syria

Thank you, Mr. President.

The report of the Independent Commission of Inquiry on Syria issued on August 27th, 2014, chronicles the enormous human cost of the conflict in Syria. Both the Assad regime, as well as Islamic militant groups who represent the anti-regime forces, are guilty of mass atrocities. Thousands are dying as the fighting continues.

ISIS and other Islamic extremist groups like Hamas, Hizbollah, al-Qaida, al-Nusra, Boko-Haram, all birds of the same feather, are causing enormous suffering to civilians and disregarding even the most basic rights of women and children. However, there is no doubt ISIS' cruelty and inhumanity has been incomparable – even in this jungle. In this regard, we strongly condemn the hostage taking of 45 Fijian UN Peacekeepers by Islamist militants in the Golan Heights, and join UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon in welcoming their release.

The conflict in Syria has led to the deaths of more than 190,000 persons, the internal displacement of more than 6.5 million, and the exodus of nearly 3 million. The people of Syria are victims of war crimes, trapped between the inhumane Assad regime and the brutal armed rebels, with no viable alternative. The Government continues to commit violations, including war crimes and crimes against humanity, with impunity. Hundreds of men, women and children were killed every week by the Government's indiscriminate firing of missiles and barrel bombs into civilian-inhabited areas. We are shocked by findings of the report showing that Government forces used chemical agents and that in some instances, civilian gatherings were deliberately targeted, constituting massacres.

As Mr. Pinheiro said, and I quote, "the international community's failure in its most elemental duties has been matched on the ground by an abandonment of even the pretense of an adherence to norms of international law". This Council must act with the utmost urgency and advocate for human rights, leaving politics and institutional bias at the door.

Thank you, Mr. President.