



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

**UN Human Rights Council
HRC 28th Session – ITEM 4 – March 2015**

ID with the COI on Syria

Mr. President,

We thank the members of the COI for their professional and hard work and for their report and presentation today.

Today's report is the 9th in four years and not much different than the previous ones. It records another chapter in the continuing Syrian catastrophe. The international community and the Human Rights Council seem helpless in the face of ongoing atrocities.

Mr. President ,

We agree with the COI and I quote: "Since the outset, civilians have borne the brunt of the suffering inflicted by the warring parties." The responsibility for the mass and barbarous crimes committed against civilians, in all parts of the country, rests with the fighting parties.

Assad's army and militias backed by their Iranian and Hizbollah allies; Islamists terrorist organizations such as ISIS and "Jabhat al-Nusra"; other forces and units- all bear responsibility for the unfathomable loss of life, loss of human dignity, disdain for moral values, violation of all legal norms and disappearing health, social and economic services in Syria. Darkness has settled down on an imploding Syria with no horizon at all.

Mr. President ,

The Syrian crisis has created a major threat to peace, stability and prosperity of the entire region and globally. The ramifications of the ongoing violence in Syria are seen in the neighboring countries, reaching as far as Europe and beyond. These have security, social, economic and human rights dimensions that will accompany all of our countries for years to come.

220,000 killed; 840,000 injured; 3 million refugees and millions of internally displaced persons. The numbers are staggering. But every individual represents a violated human right, an injustice, or a suppression of liberty. We do not have the option to be blind, deaf and dumb to the atrocities committed by all sides in the name of political expediency, ideology or power politics. Similarly, let us confront with open minds and eyes the geo-political realities. It could save our region from future tragedies.

Thank you.