



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

**UN Human Rights Council
HRC 30th Session – ITEM 4 – September 2015**

ID with the COI on Syria

Mr. President,

I would like to thank the members of the COI for their report. Yours is a challenging but crucial mission.

Unfortunately, there is no light at the end of this dark tunnel. Refugees pouring into the tunnel's entry in Syria exit in Lesbos. Their road leads through the Balkans all the way to the Eurotunnel. The Syrian tragedy is going nowhere because its main protagonists continue to pour oil on the fanning flames.

Bashar al-Assad's government drops barrel bombs on its own population. The war has claimed 250,000 lives by now; millions are refugees or displaced persons.

The Islamic Republic of Iran and its terrorist proxy Hezbollah proclaim their commitment to fight shoulder to shoulder with the Syrian forces "until the bitter end". According to some evaluations, Hezbollah has between 6000 to 7000 terrorist fighters in Syria heavily armed with Iranian weapons.

One terrible example is the village of Zabadani. The U.N. Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Mr. Stephen O'Brien declared, and I quote: "Over the last several weeks, the Government of Syria and allied forces have pressed their attack on Zabadani, leading to an unprecedented level of destruction and death among civilians."

Furthermore, we hear of the recruitment of Afghan refugees, who managed to find shelter in Iran, to the fighting in Syria. Iran cynically uses refugees to create more refugees.

Mr. President,

Assad's cruelty is matched by the barbarism of the Islamic State. One refugee is quoted saying that the Jihadis slaughter with swords, Assad with barrel bombs. Both have turned Syria into a slaughterhouse.

Israel, for its part, has treated more than 1700 Syrians in its hospitals. But living next to the black hole that is Syria is alarming.

This Chamber should speak with a stronger and clearer voice on Syria. For the sake of Syrians everywhere.

Thank you, Mr. President.