



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

**UN Human Rights Council
HRC 31st Session – Item 4– March 2016**

Commission of Inquiry on Syria

Mr. President,

We thank the CoI for its work, and we welcome its report and presentation today

Five years and twelve COI reports since the horrific violence has erupted, the situation in Syria has deteriorated into an extremely complicated conflict, in which crimes against humanity are committed with total disregard for the Security Council's resolutions, ignoring with inconceivable cruelty, the plea of millions who cry for help.

The violence in Syria has introduced to the world, phenomena that we thought would never return – starvation, the use of chemical weapons and barrel bombs, massive flow of refugees, the mass destruction of whole cities, the blocking of humanitarian access – just to name a few.

While watching the country falls apart and its social mosaic crumbles to pieces, the response of the Human Rights Council is amazingly weak. So weak that I'm afraid that even additional twelve COI reports will not change a thing .

Mr. President ,

If we truly want to change the situation in Syria, the first step would be to address the root causes of the conflict and to recognize the reality.

In reality, Syria has become a battle field between two extreme ideologies – those of the Islamic Republic of Iran with its proxy Hezbollah, and the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

In reality, the poor people of Syria are the victims of this bloody power game.

In reality, by refusing to take side and choose between the two evils, the Islamic Republic on one hand or the Islamic State on the other - the people of Syria are being pushed out from their homeland, turned into a stateless refugees with no hope in sight.

In reality, the Human Rights Council turns a blind eye towards the real causes of the conflict, and by that it betrays the people of Syria and lets them continue sinking into the abyss of darkness.

Thank you