



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

**UN Human Rights Council
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ID with COI on the Syrian Arab Republic

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Thank you, Mr. President.

Israel commends the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic for exposing the unbearable atrocities committed by the Syrian regime and its accomplices, as well as those done by ISIS and other opposition groups. We hope that the perpetrators of these abuses and violations, which include crimes against humanity, will be held accountable.

After five and a half years of horrible bloodshed, Syria under the Assad regime is but a failed state, with conservative estimates putting the number of people killed at 300,000, many of them women and children. No less than 18 thousand prisoners have died in Syrian custody, and 13.5 million Syrians became refugees.

The Syrian regime has routinely been using chemical weapon and Barrel bombs against its own civilians. The Yazidis are suffering genocide at the hands of the barbaric ISIS. And meanwhile, Iran and its offshoot Hezbollah continue to intervene in the Syrian crisis, thus exacerbating an already grave humanitarian situation in Syria, and undermining regional stability.

Mr. President.

Let us hope that the efforts of the power states and Special Envoy de Mistura, to implement the new COH will bear fruit and bring the bloodshed in Syria to an end. However, we should remember that Syria will not return to become the same state as before. The Assad regime has demonstrated the tremendous humanitarian toll that can be caused by a regime that denies its people the very basic personal and political rights. And let us remind those like Iran and Hezbollah who foment war in Syria, that they also have a stake in the Syrian tragedy.

Thank you, Mr. President.