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

Delivered by Ambassador Aviva Raz Shechter,
Permanent Representative of Israel to the UN in Geneva

Thank you Mr. Vice-President,

Israel wishes to thank the COI for its important work in monitoring and reporting on the gross human rights violations in Syria.

Israel is appalled by the severe fighting that continues in Syria, where innocent men, women and children continue to pay a daily price.

The Syrian regime continue to act in utter disregard of International Law, employing what the Reports calls “medieval warfare tactics”, including siege, starvation, the deliberate bombing of hospitals and clinics, among others. This was the case in Aleppo.

Against its international commitment to eliminate its chemical weapons’ stockpiles, the Syrian regime did not hesitate to gas its own people in eastern Aleppo, intentionally murdering civilians, among them children. Barrel bombs containing chlorine gas were used by the government forces against civilians, for example in Al-Sukkari district, Al-Klasa and Bustan Al-Qasr.

The ruthless killing of 14 aid workers, who were part of a UN humanitarian convoy in Orum Al-Kubra last September, was yet another reminder of the regime's disrespect for basic international standards.

Meanwhile, armed groups fighting against the regime in western Aleppo did not spare the lives of children, shelling them with improvised artillery. Nothing can justify the use of such methods to target civilian-inhabited areas.

Israel supports the recommendations of the COI, particularly the call to end all sieges and starvation; to end all attacks against aid workers and humanitarian facilities; and to cease indiscriminate shelling of civilian-inhabited areas.

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President.