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**UN Human Rights Council**  
**34<sup>th</sup> Session, Item 4 – March 14, 2017**

**High Level Panel on the Syrian Arab Republic**

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

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Thank you Mr. President,

Israel welcomes holding the high-level panel on Syria, and deplores the violations of human rights and the suffering of so many.

We are appalled by the callous brutality that the Syrian regime shows towards its own people. We have heard testimonies about the atrocities on a daily basis and about executions which were taking place in the prison of Sydnania. Thousands of detainees continue to suffer from torture inside the notorious Syrian jails.

By now it is a common knowledge that Syria has been deceiving the OPCW and continues to bomb its own people with chemical weapons. The testimonies of Syrian victims are speaking for themselves.

In addition, extremist Islamic organizations such as ISIL and Jabhat Fath A-Sham demonstrate the moral abyss, human beings are capable of. In ISIL controlled Raqqa, women are being violently and mentally abused, prosecuted and executed. They are not secure even in their own homes.

Moreover, we would urge human rights bodies and organizations not to neglect the many violations committed by Iran, and its offshoot terror organization Hezbollah, and their abuses of human rights in Syria.

Mr. President, our questions to the panel are two:

1. What reports or allegations do you have regarding “ethnic cleansing” that is taking place in the areas where the so called “reconciliation agreements” are being discussed?
2. What efforts are made by the international human rights mechanisms for monitoring Iran and Hezbollah’s abuses of Human Rights in Syria?

Thank you, Mr. President.