
UN Human Rights Council
35th Session, Item 4 – June 14, 2017

Individual Interactive Dialogue with the COI on Syria

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

Thank you Mr. Vice-President,

Israel would like to thank the Commission of Inquiry for its oral update.

Israel remains deeply disturbed by the human rights situation in Syria, where severe violations continue to be perpetrated on an unimagined scale by the regime for more than six years. We are also concerned about the continued atrocities perpetrated in Syria by ISIL as well as other radical Islamist terror groups.

The Human Rights Council has been relatively vocal on Syria, but should do more to pressure the Assad regime to cease its criminal behavior against its own population, which includes the shocking use of chemical weapons, and atrocities committed in the Saydnaya penitentiary complex, and the Mezzeh airport detention facility.

Syrian representatives abuse their participation in the deliberations of this Council, as well as other UN bodies, making a mockery out of them. Such was the case with their UPR presentation in late 2016, which was void of any credibility.

We continue to be extremely concerned with the destabilizing interference of Iran in the Syrian conflict, which this Council tends to overlook. Thousands of Afghan refugees find themselves recruited by Teheran to fight in Syria as mercenaries. Iran doesn't hide its destructive intentions, installing Hezbollah as a Shiite vanguard against Israel in the Golan, or by establishing a rocket factory in Syria to build up Hezbollah's arsenal.

Finally, we would like to commend the tremendous efforts made by Special Envoy De-Mistura to advance a political solution to the Syrian tragedy.

I thank you Mr. Vice-President.