
UN Human Rights Council
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ID with Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic

Delivered by Ambassador Aviva Raz Shechter,
Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations

Thank you, Mr. President.

Israel would like to thank the members of the COI on Syria for their unsettling report.

The Commission's report reaffirms what was already known about the regime's ruthless use of chemical weapons against its own people. While we welcome the coalition's success in pushing back ISIL, we are concerned about the heavy involvement of Hezbollah terrorists in Syria, and by the increasing entrenchment of Iran in the void created as a result of ISIL's defeat.

We would like to invite the COI to look into the matter of the almost 18,000 Shi'ite mercenaries imported to Syria by Iran.

Despite these concerns, since the beginning of the Syrian crisis Israel has reached out and provided medical treatment to some 4,000 wounded Syrians, among them 900 children. Through operation "Good Neighbor", the Israeli army is providing humanitarian aid to Syrians residents in areas adjacent to Israel, including fuel, food and other essential goods. 110 such aid missions have taken place since August 2016.

Finally, we would like to commend Mr. De Mistura and his staff for their tireless efforts to bring an end to the tragic Syrian crisis.

I thank you Mr. President.