
UN Human Rights Council
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ID with Commission of Inquiry on Syria

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

Thank you, Mr. President,

We would like to thank the members of the Commission of Inquiry on Syria for their report, which as before brings us the muted voices of the countless victims of Syria's civil war.

The report is disturbing as much as it is important. It describes how the Syrian Government continues to target its own civilians by indiscriminate bombing including using cluster bombs. It tells us the story of the 60 people who were killed while crossing the Euphrates, of the seven schools hit by pro-government forces in the Aleppo countryside bordering Idlib in the latter part of 2017, and the many hospitals deliberately attacked by Assad's forces.

We deplore the continued use of chemical weapons by the Syrian government against its own people, as documented in the report. Equally disturbing is the practice of the Government, as well as pro-Iranian militias, of laying siege to entire communities with the purpose of causing starvation and severe malnutrition among the besieged.

We have grown all too accustomed to hearing about the atrocities committed in Syria. But we should not let this fact lessen the attention we give to these crimes or the international resolve to deal with their perpetrators.

In this context, we would like to ask the Commission how is it planning to tackle the increasingly worrying trend of Iranian entrenchment in Syria, which takes a heavy toll on the human rights of Syrians both directly by violating their rights, as well as indirectly by further destabilizing an already volatile situation in the region.

I thank you Mr. President.