
UN Human Rights Council
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High Level Panel on Human Rights of Children in Syria

Delivered by Mr. Yoel Mester,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Israel to the UN in Geneva

Thank you, Mr. President,

First allow us to pay tribute to the speakers in this panel, who afforded us these disturbing testimonies about the grim fate that the children in Syria face today. How can you not feel compassion for these innocent young lives that are so brutally destroyed?

The story of the children of East Ghouta attacked by their own government with chemical weapons ought to be told. The voices of the countless youngsters living under siege deprived of their basic subsistence needs deserve to be heard. And then there are the bombed schools and clinics, leaving children without access to education or health.

As if these were not enough, Government forces as well as pro-government militias continue the practice of recruiting minors into their combat units. Hezbollah and Iran do the same, and recruit Afghan, Iranian and Lebanese children.

Mr. President,

Despite the known tension along the border, Israel continues to provide humanitarian assistance to Syrian civilians including children. For example, "Humanitarian Warmth" is a project runs by Israeli youth movements which collect donations from Arab, Jewish and Druze communities and send them to Syrian children who are in needs for winter clothing, infant formula and more. Ziv hospital in Safed continues to receive children in need for medical treatment. Hearing aids and reading glasses are being distributed to children in need.

I thank you Mr. President.