
UN Human Rights Council
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ID with Col on Syria

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

Thank you, Mr. President,

We thank the Commission of Inquiry for presenting us with yet another report about the serious human rights violations in Syria's devastating civil war. We encourage the Commission to continue its important work in documenting the crimes of the Syrian government, even as it is trying to regain an undeserved diplomatic legitimacy. The voiceless victims of Syria should not also be the ones paying the price of "Realpolitik".

Unlike another COI which is set to address the Council later this session, the Syria COI is a necessity, justified by the sheer gravity of the events it is mandated to investigate, not the least of which is the frequent use of chemical weapons against civilians. We share the Commission's concern on the unprecedented number of detainees allegedly deceased and/or missing, which may reach the tens of thousands. The Syrian government continues to bombard civilian areas, and denies the political and economic rights of scores of displaced Syrians.

As we've stressed before, Iran's increasing military presence in Syria puts the human rights of all the residents of the region in jeopardy, as does its subversive aggression in other parts of the Middle East. It is incumbent upon the Council to be much more vocal in denouncing Iran's complicity with the Syrian government in committing atrocities against its own people, together with the Hizbullah terrorist organization.

On its part, Israel will continue to extend humanitarian assistance to Syrians in need, while protecting its vital interests along the border with Syria.

I thank you Mr. President.