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**UN Human Rights Council**  
**41<sup>st</sup> Session, Item 4 – July 2, 2019**

**ID with the COI on Syria**

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Thank you, Mr. President.

We would like to thank the Commission of Inquiry on Syria for its oral update. The COI on Syria is an example of how the Human Rights Council, provided it gets its moral compass right, can turn the spotlight to largescale human rights violations that truly require the world's attention.

The military gains of the Syrian government continue to come at an unbearable human cost. Systematic violations of the human rights of ordinary Syrian civilians continue to be committed, like the use of starvation as a method of warfare, while the situation in Idlib continues to be of particular concern. We deplore the reported mass executions in government prisons, the reports of widespread torture, as well as measures intended to strip individuals of their social and economic rights.

Mr. President,

The continued entrenchment of Iranian forces in Syria continues to be extremely concerning, as this country has a long track record of sponsoring terror and fomenting regional instability. We would like to ask the COI the following: wouldn't you agree that the involvement of Iranian fighters, commanders and decision makers in human rights violations in Syria merits a rigorous investigation by UN human rights bodies? And wouldn't you agree that the claim of the Syrian government, that it had invited Iran to assist it, do not make such an investigation any less necessary?

I thank you Mr. President.