
UN Human Rights Council
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ID with the Col on Syria

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

Thank you, Madame Vice President.

We take note of the report of the Commission of Inquiry on Syria, and would like to point to some worrying gaps that exist in it unfortunately. Most importantly, any attempt to provide an account of the political and military context cannot ignore the dangerous involvement of elements of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Syria, which threatens the right to life of the residents of the region.

The COI should not spare Iran the close scrutiny it deserves for its complicity in the systematic human rights violations of the Syrian government. This terror-sponsoring state has taken an active part in the deadly campaign Assad's forces have been waging against the Syrian people. It's dangerously using Syrian territory as a base from which to launch attacks against Israel and smuggle weapons systems to the Hizbullah terror organization in Lebanon, itself a perpetrator. And it plans to create a land bridge from Iran through Iraq, Syria and Lebanon to the Mediterranean Sea, including a concession it just received from the Syrian government to build its own port south of Tartous.

Madame Vice President,

On several occasion during previous dialogues with the Commission of Inquiry, we invited it to examine closely Iran's nefarious presence in Syria, and its negative effects on human rights. However, unfortunately to date the Commission has hardly seemed to be concerned with this pressing matter, and so Iran is left to continue its actions unchecked and free from international condemnation.

I thank you Madame Vice President.