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**UN Human Rights Council**  
**44<sup>th</sup> Session, 14 July 2020**

**Item 4 – ID with COI on Syria**

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Thank you President,

We take note of the report of the Commission of Inquiry on Syria, which sheds light on the dire human rights situation in Idlib.

We continue to be concerned about persistent human rights violations by the Syrian government against its own people. Assad is clinging to power, putting obstacles before the political track, at the expense of the residents of Syria who continue to suffer oppression and hunger.

We would invite the Commission of Inquiry to pay more attention to the complicity of Iran in the systematic human rights violations of the Syrian government. We have heard the representatives of this country use every opportunity throughout this session to blame outside forces for its predicament. Perhaps the COI can help the government of Iran realize that the hardship suffered by ordinary Iranians is a direct result of its own policies, including its regional aggression in places like Syria.

One of the foremost destabilizing forces in Syria is the Lebanese terror organization Hizbullah, which acts as a proxy of Iran, aiding and abetting Assad.

Any attempt to provide an account of the political and military context in Syria cannot ignore the dangerous involvement of Iran and Hizbullah in this country, which threatens the right to life of the residents of the region. The COI should exercise its scrutiny in this context.

I thank you.