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**UN Human Rights Council  
45th Session, 22 September 2020**

**Item 4 – ID with COI on Syria**

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Thank you Madam President,

We take note of the report of the Commission of Inquiry on Syria, which sheds light on the many targeted human rights violations in this country.

As we approach the ten-year anniversary of the civil war in Syria, we call on the COI to turn its spotlight on the Syrian regime's continued refusal to opt for a political solution to the conflict. For nearly a decade, the regime along with its accomplices Iran and Hizbullah, has been systematically violating every possible human right of the Syrian people, including the use of siege and starvation tactics against them. Any resistance has been met with a ruthless "scorched earth" strategy, including the destruction of desperately needed civilian infrastructures.

Madam President,

The regime's crimes reached a dreadful peak during the siege of Aleppo, and its use of chemical weapons against its own people. In the areas under its control violations continue unabated today, including killings, enforced disappearances and arbitrary detention. The "Caesar" file revealed the extent of the brutality that prevails in Syria's prisons, where wholesale executions of detainees have taken place. Throughout the conflict, the regime has deliberately targeted hospitals and clinics.

Once again we call on the COI to pay attention to the complicity of Iran and Hizbullah in the systematic human rights violations in Syria, for which they should be held accountable.

I thank you.