
UN Human Rights Council
47th Session, July 2021

Item 4 – Col on Syria

Delivered by Ambassador Meirav Eilon Shahar
Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations in Geneva

Thank you, Madam President ,

We want to thank the Commission of Inquiry on Syria for its oral update. Israel remains deeply concerned about the situation of human rights in Syria and for the complete disregard for human life shown by the Syrian authorities .

Madam President,

Ten years ago, the Syrian government brutally cracked down on peaceful protests, killings hundreds, including children, and detaining thousands, who have never been seen again. Over the following decade, the government and its non-state and regional allies have tortured, raped, and murdered hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians. They continue to systematically target hospitals despite the COVID-19 pandemic, and to deny humanitarian access to those who oppose them .

Madam President ,

Throughout this conflict, the Syrian government has employed widespread enforced disappearances as a tool to spread fear, stifle dissent and punish those who dare speak against it. Tens of thousands of those detained have been subjected to unimaginable abuse. Yet, the Syrian authorities continue to deliberately conceal their fate and whereabouts to prolong the suffering of their family members.

Madam President,

Our question to the panel is as followed:

1. For a decade, Human Rights Mechanisms here in Geneva have closely followed human rights abuses in Syria, what more can be done to enhance this monitoring to look at abuses not only carried out by the regime, but also its proxies and regional allies ?

I thank you .