
UN Human Rights Council
48th Session, September 2021

Item 4 – Col on Syria

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

Thank you, Madam. President,

We take note of the Commission of Inquiry's report about the serious human rights violations committed in Syria. We encourage the Commission to continue its work in documenting the crimes of the Syrian Regime and its regional allies. Israel remains deeply concerned by the blatant disregard for fundamental human rights by the Syrian government forces. For over ten years, they have killed hundreds of thousands of their own civilians; and have tortured and arbitrarily detained thousands more.

Madam President,

The Syrian regime has systematically targeted its own health system, prevented aid access to its own population, and threatened, detained and murdered many medical professionals. On the 21st of March, the Atarib hospital was shelled by the Syrian Regime, killing at least 6 patients, including a child. This hospital was already located underground, a measure taken to avoid being targeted; all that the medical personal wanted was to treat people and deliver medical care. The recent COI report found that this attack, one of the hundreds that the Syrian government has carried out against healthcare infrastructure, could amount to war crimes.

Madam President,

We are also deeply concerned by the lack of attention given by this Council to Iran's destabilizing presence in Syria. Iran's military presence in this country puts the human rights of the Syrian people, as well as the people of our region, in jeopardy. This must be addressed.

I thank you.