
UN Human Rights Council
51st Regular Session, September 2022

Item 4 – ID with the COI on Syria

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

Thank you, Mr. President,

It is vital that the world not forget what is happening in Syria. The Syrian Authorities continue to detain innocent Syrians, use bombs to silence their critics, and try to torture their population into submission.

This report by the COI highlights many shocking events over the last year. It documents how innocent civilians in Syria continue to be tortured in detention centers, including by electric shocks, burning body parts, and being folded into car tires.

It highlights how Syrian Military Intelligence continues to storm homes, beat innocent civilians for several hours, and detain them for several months, depriving them of sanitation, food, and medical care.

It shows how the Syrian government continues to target civilians through airstrikes. For example, on January 1st this year, just as the world celebrated a new year, Syrian government jets hit a makeshift camp in Nahr Al-Abyad, killing a mother of four and two girls aged seven and two years old. On April 4th at 11.15 am, Syria government forces also killed four boys aged 12-13 as they were on their way to Al-Amal School. One missile struck the main road used by many of the 500 children every single day—the COI identified no military targets nearby.

Mr. President,

The world must continue to watch and condemn what is happening in Syria. It must continue to seek to hold those who have overseen some of the worst atrocities over the past decade to account.

I thank you.