

**United Nations Human Rights Council  
22<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session, 25 February to 22 March 2013  
Agenda Item 4**

**ICJ Oral Statement in the Interactive Dialogue under Item 4 with the Commission of  
Inquiry on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic  
CALL FOR SECURITY COUNCIL REFERRAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT  
AND EFFECTIVE HUMANITARIAN MEASURES**

11 March 2013

*Check against delivery*

Mr. President,

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) calls, once again, on the Human Rights Council to request the Security Council immediately to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and, as a matter of urgency, take other effective measures at its disposal to protect civilians, including refugees and others fleeing the conflict in neighbouring countries, and to address the humanitarian crisis across Syria.

The situation in Syria continues to deteriorate rapidly. Government forces have been responsible for systematic and widespread attacks against the civilian population that the Commission of Inquiry has said may amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes, including unlawful killings, enforced disappearances, torture and other ill-treatment, pillage and the destruction of property.

The Government has carried out direct attacks against the civilian population and civilian objects, as well as indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks, in violation of international humanitarian law.

As the internal armed conflict becomes increasingly sectarian and radicalised, anti-Government forces have also been responsible for serious human rights abuses and international humanitarian law violations, including unlawful killings, torture and hostage-taking.

Mr. President,

The already dire humanitarian situation has deteriorated further with the displacement of hundreds of thousands of persons from combat areas to other areas within Syria and abroad. It is the responsibility of the international community to act immediately to address this humanitarian crisis and to meet its obligations under international law to prevent and protect the Syrian population from the widespread and systematic abuses that have been committed over the last two years. This Council must demand robust, united action on the part of the Security Council with a view to ending breaches of international law committed in the Syrian conflict, ensuring the immediate protection of civilians, and holding the perpetrators to account, including by referring this situation to the ICC.

I thank you.

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