

**United Nations Human Rights Council
30th Regular Session, 15 September to 2 October 2015
Agenda Item 4**

Oral Statement of International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)

in the Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic

ACCOUNTABILITY AND OTHER MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE SYRIAN CONFLICT

21 September 2015

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Mr President,

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) calls on the UN Human Rights Council and the Security Council to respond to the findings of the 10th report of the Syria Commission of Inquiry, including with a view to ensuring accountability for the serious violations of international humanitarian law and gross human rights abuses committed by government and anti-government forces.

The Commission of Inquiry has presented strong evidence that war crimes and crimes against humanity have been committed by the parties to the conflict, including murder, extermination, torture, enforced disappearance, execution without due process, rape, sexual violence, hostage-taking and recruiting and using children in hostilities. With respect to both the Syrian Government and ISIS, the Commission has found that attacks against civilians have been committed as a matter of policy.

The catalogue of violations listed in the Commission's report captures only part of the suffering and agony of the Syrian population, half of which are either refugees or internally displaced persons as a result of this conflict.

Mr President,

The collective failure of the international community to address the situation in Syria must stop. This Council should urge the Security Council to take effective measures, including under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, to address the Syrian conflict, which is, in the words of the Commission, "proliferating in its scope and extent", and which continues to constitute a threat to peace and security in the region and beyond. The situation must also be referred to the ICC.

States, including members of this Council, must also comply with their obligations under international law vis-à-vis the Syrian conflict, including by searching for all those responsible for international crimes committed in this conflict and bringing them before their own courts, and by protecting the rights of Syrian refugees and abiding by the principle of non-refoulement.

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