



Member 25

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives
to the United Nations Office at Geneva

Statement by H.E. Ms. Iruthisham Adam

At Human Rights Council Special Session on "the deteriorating human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic and the recent killings in El-Houleh"

1 June 2012

Madam President, Madam High Commissioner,

The Maldives joined the request for the convening of this Special Session on the recent massacre committed in El-Houleh, as well as other gross and systematic violations of human rights in Syria.

We did so because as a member of the Human Rights Council we have pledged to uphold the highest standards of human rights and to promote and protect human rights around the world. We believe it is important for representatives of the international community to meet and send out a common message conveying our outrage at the killings, our sympathy for the victims, their families and communities, and our determination to secure accountability and justice.

The full horror of the massacre in the El-Houleh area of Homs has been widely reported. It is clear that it included the mass execution and arbitrary killing of at least 90 innocent civilians, including 34 children under the age of 10. The final death toll may well be much higher. The Maldives joins others in condemning such violence.

If there were still those who doubted or questioned whether crimes against humanity are indeed being perpetrated in Syria, such ambiguity must now be put firmly to rest.

Thus the question is what should we, the representatives of the international community, do in response.



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The Maldives has consistently made clear that where crimes against humanity are committed, and where the relevant national authorities are failing in their primary responsibility to protect their people, then the international community, lead by the United Nations Security Council, must act.

The Human Rights Council has said time and again that gross and systematic violations of human rights have been carried out in Syria, mainly by forces loyal to the Government. The Council and the High Commissioner have also sent a clear message that such acts may amount to crimes against humanity. The Council has also called on other main bodies of the UN, namely the Security Council, to act accordingly.

The Maldives therefore hopes that out of the tragedy of El-Houleh will come the resolve, on the part of the international community and particularly the members of the Security Council, to act to protect the women, children and other innocent people of Syria from further violence, and to refer the violations committed in Syria to the International Criminal Court.

The people of Syria and the world's conscience demand nothing less.

Thank you.