



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

**Statement at Urgent Debate  
The deteriorating situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic,  
and the recent killings in Al Qusayr**

**23<sup>rd</sup> Session of Human Rights Council by  
H.E. Ms. Iruthisham Adam,  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Maldives**

**Geneva, 29 May 2013**

Mr President,

The Maldives welcomes the initiative to hold an Urgent Debate within the framework of the Human Rights Council on the deteriorating situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic, and the recent killings in the city of Al-Qusayr. On numerous occasions, my delegation has expressed its deepest concerns on the gross atrocities committed by both sides in Syria, and called on both sides to cease all violence and to reach a negotiated settlement. However, the recent escalation of the conflict, fuelled by non-state actors from neighbouring countries are an alarming turn of events in what could now be determined as a protracted sectarian civil war.

The Maldives condemns in the strongest terms the gross and systematic violations that have taken place, and the use of disproportionate force in residential areas by the Syrian Government, including aerial attacks and indiscriminate shelling of its own population in Al-Qusayr. We also remain concerned by the documented instances of human rights violations by anti-Government armed groups operating inside Syria, such as torture and extrajudicial executions.

Mr President,

It is most disconcerting that the conflict in Syria and all its maladies are spilling over to neighbouring countries, with wide implications for the peace and stability of the entire region. We call on the international community, especially the United Nations Security Council to implement urgently

enforcement measures to give effect to its resolutions on this conflict. Political differences in the international community must not be a basis for indecisiveness, especially when thousands of lives have been lost and the undoing of the Syrian State continues before our eyes. The humanitarian and human cost of the conflict has already become immeasurable. How long would it take before we realize that the cries and pleas of the Syrian people have become too loud to bear?

Mr President,

The Maldives is encouraged to see the initiative taken by a number of countries to hold an International Conference on Syria, here in Geneva and the indication of the current Syrian Government to attend it. We will continue to support all efforts to end all violence in the country and to mediate a negotiated settlement to the conflict, with a clear vision for post-conflict reconciliation. The time for urgent debates and draft resolutions must soon come to pass, and tangible action must be taken to put an end to this conflict.

Thank you Mr. President.

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