

4. Interactive Dialogue with Independent Commission of Inquiry on Syria

**27th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council
8 – 26 September 2014, Geneva**

**Interactive Dialogue with the
Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab
Republic
16 September 2014**

**Statement by Ms. Rishfa Rasheed,
First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives
to the United Nations Offices in Geneva**

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Thank you, Mr. President.

I take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic for the periodic updates to the Council, and the report with detailed accounts of the continued violations of human rights committed by both parties in this conflict.

As the High Commissioner has noted in his opening remarks at the Council Session, the country “has devolved into a slaughterhouse, where children are tortured in front of their parents or executed in public, amid wanton killing and destruction”. Despite many efforts of the international community, the rights of the Syrians have not protected in this war. The blatant disregard for human rights is deeply alarming with the number of executions, amputations, violence against women and children that occur daily. It is now more concerning, that the war is spreading into the region.

Mr President

The Maldives ardently believes that the situation needs referral to the International Criminal Court. Systemic torture, unlawful killings, beheading, denial of access to medical facilities and humanitarian assistance, as well as access to flee conflict zones is unacceptable. We condemn the mass atrocities committed by both sides of the conflict which amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. The perpetrators of the conflict must be held accountable, and brought to justice.

The violations committed against innocent civilians, women, children and infants are unimaginable. Due to abductions, killings of many men, the families have been left to cater on their own. The women have succumbed to daily sexual and other forms of violence. The children are forced to work as messengers, spies, none of which have spared their innocent lives.

Mr. President

According to reports and investigations, over 200,000 Syrians have been killed, and 3 million people have fled the conflict and over 6 million people internally displaced. Yet, both sides of the conflict are still being provided with weapons and other means to continue this war with no sign of end to the conflict.

The Maldives remains disappointed by the lack of serious and effective response from the international community. As we have previously stated, the longer the international community and the UN, including the Security Council take to control the situation, the greater is the risk of undermining the credibility of the United Nations. We call upon all parties to allow, without undue hindrance access to humanitarian aid workers, in compliance with Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014). We join the call made by several delegations, to grant full and unfettered access to the members of the Commission to carry out their mandate. The Maldives fully support the recommendations made in the report, and urge the Secretary-General, General Assembly and the Security Council to implement the recommendations fully.

In conclusion, the Maldives pleads the international community to use all means possible, to immediately end this conflict, and urgently find a political solution to ensure the protection of civilians in the Syrian Arab Republic.

I thank you, Mr. President.