



**CAIRO INSTITUTE  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES**  
Institut du Caire pour les études des droits de l'homme  
مركز القاهرة لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

**UN Human Rights Council: 30<sup>th</sup> Session**  
**Item 4 Oral Intervention: ID COI Syria**  
**Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)**  
**21 September 2015**  
**Delivered by: Salma Amer**

**Thank you Mr. President,**

CIHRS welcomes the report of the International Commission of Inquiry (CoI) on the situation in Syria. Particularly, its focus on the impact of the conflict on the life of civilians and various groups and communities, including human rights defenders and journalists.

It comes as no surprise the scale of devastation this conflict has brought to the Syrian social fabric. Just like it is key to reveal and put to account the perpetrators of international crimes, it is also essential to give a face to the victims, who are not only numbers, but people with shattered lives. We encourage the CoI to bring the voices of victims to light in its future reports.

CIHRS fully supports the CoI's conclusion that: "Without stronger efforts to bring parties to the peace table, ready to compromise, (...) the Syrian conflict (...) will continue for the foreseeable future."

However sustainable peace is not possible without effective accountability. After more than four years, impunity continues to be the primary driving force that fuels this conflict. Any political process must be in parallel with mechanisms that provide effective remedies to victims and deterrence to perpetrators. This includes the Security Council's role in ensuring justice in Syria.

In this regard, CIHRS also welcomes recent Security Council efforts to advance accountability through resolution 2235 establishing the Joint Investigative Mechanism of the UN and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), with a mandate to identify individuals, entities, groups or governments perpetrating, organizing, sponsoring or involved in the use of chemicals as weapons in Syria.

We strongly call on UN Human Rights Council (HRC) member states to ensure that this Security Council mechanism and the CoI fully cooperate to the extent that is possible, so that each of these bodies carry out its mandate efficiently and without duplication.

A clear message of deterrence should be sent to all parties to end the violence and resume the political process. The heartbreaking picture of the tiny body of Allan Kurdi lifeless on a seashore in Turkey should remain a constant reminder of the urgent need

for the international community to ensure an end to the barbaric crimes that have claimed the lives of so many innocent victims in Syria. The millions of Syrians who continue to suffer daily require an international community willing to unite and work together to end this conflict.

**Thank you Mr. President.**