



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

**Human Rights Council: 32<sup>nd</sup> Session**

**Item 4: Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic**

**Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)**

**21 June 2016**

**Thank you Mr. President,**

Heading to the 6<sup>th</sup> year of the conflict in Syria, thousands of civilians remain in detention in the most horrendous conditions. While our organization welcomes all efforts made by the negotiating parties to release detainees, this Council is ought to take more concrete action. In the High Commissioner's words, "collecting and analyzing information so appalling, and reporting on it, is intended to serve action. But when it simply piles up and then dissipates into the corridors of power, we are shaken, feeling as I'm sure many around the world feel, almost helpless in this horror."

Many rights organizations have been repeatedly calling for decisive action towards ending the arbitrary and unlawful arrest and the kidnapping of innocent civilians. It is believed that high ranking officials either directly took part of these violations or did not take any action to halt them. For this information not to dissipate into the corridors of power, accountability for these crimes must be attained.

We urge all states to accept a shared responsibility to investigate and prosecute such crimes under international law, in particular by seeking to exercise universal jurisdiction, and support the referral of the situation to the ICC.

We also urge this Council to adopt a resolution that would urge all parties to ensure safe, immediate and unconditional access to all prisons and other places of detention. The CoI and other credible rights organizations have been repeatedly denied access to official prisons where more than 200,000 detainees remain in custody, including children.

Finally, we urge this Council to *convene* a high level panel that would feature Syrian voices from the ground and witness testimony to crimes being committed in Syria, with a view to ensuring a victim oriented approach by the Council

**Thank you Mr. President**