



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: 61st Session

Item 4: ID with the COI on the Syrian Arab Republic

Oral Intervention

Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)

13th March 2026

Delivered by: Mayssa Achek

The Independent Commission of Inquiry report reveals concerning patterns of sectarian violence in Syria

Mr. V. Président,

We thank the Commission of Inquiry for its comprehensive report documenting the tragic violence against civilians in coastal and western-central Syria in early 2025.

The findings are profoundly disturbing: approximately 1,400 people killed, predominantly from Alawite communities, including 100 women; massacres across multiple governorates; torture, looting, and displacement. The sectarian nature of these attacks, with victims interrogated about their religious beliefs before being executed, exposes a dangerous phenomenon that threatens Syria's fragile transition.

We welcome the interim government's cooperation with the Commission and the establishment of a National Inquiry. However, we remain deeply concerned that violations continue: ongoing killings, abductions, arbitrary arrests, and property seizures.

Mr. V. President, this Commission's work has never been more critical. For fourteen years, it has documented atrocities across Syria. Now, as the country attempts to break from its brutal past, the Commission's independent monitoring and accountability efforts are essential to ensure this transition honors human rights for all Syrians, regardless of sect,

ethnicity, or political affiliation.

Beyond the coastal massacres, a multitude of human rights violations across Syria remain uninvestigated at the national level, including incidents in Sweida and Damascus. Syria's inherited judicial system requires fundamental reform before it can deliver justice independently and impartially.

Thank you.