



STÄNDIGE MISSION
DES FÜRSTENTUMS LIECHTENSTEIN
MISSION PERMANENTE
DE LA PRINCIPAUTÉ DE LIECHTENSTEIN
PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

Check against delivery

38th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic 26 June 2018

Intervention by Ms. Selina Pfister
Permanent Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein welcomes the ongoing work and efforts of the Commission of Inquiry in Syria. The latest report on sieges as a weapon of war illustrates again the blatant disregard for the most basic principles of international humanitarian law in the conflict. We condemn the collective punishment through denial of freedom of movement, indiscriminate bombardment, denial of access to humanitarian aid, food, water, and medicine, prevention of leaving and forced displacement.

Many of these offenses constitute war crimes or crimes against humanity. We reiterate our call on the Security Council to refer the situation to the ICC. In the absence of such a referral, the work of the Syria Mechanism (IIIM), created by the General Assembly in 2016, is even more important. We call on all States to cooperate with the IIIM and to share information and evidence in their possession about the atrocities committed in the Syrian war with the Mechanism. We welcome the decision by a number of States to hold individual perpetrators accountable under the principle of universal jurisdiction, including high-ranking Syrian officials, as an important step towards closing the impunity gap. The decision by German prosecutors to issue an international arrest warrant for the Head of the Syrian Airforce Intelli-

gence, Jamil Hassan, on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity, is particularly noteworthy in this regard. These processes can and will be supported by the IIIM. We welcome the Commission's continuous collection of information of the crimes committed in Syria. How are you cooperating with the IIIM in this regard to ensure that the Mechanism can build on your work following criminal law evidentiary standards? If and how are you cooperating directly with European war crimes units?

I thank you!