



# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS

Commission internationale de juristes - Comisión Internacional de Juristas

*"Dedicated since 1952 to the primacy, coherence and implementation of international law and principles that advance human rights"*

**United Nations Human Rights Council  
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Agenda Item 4**

## **ICJ Oral Intervention on the Situation of Human Rights in the Syrian Arab Republic**

19 September 2011

*Check against delivery*

Madam President,

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) urges the Human Rights Council to request the UN Security Council to consider the situation in Syria in order to consider effective options at its disposal to ensure the immediate protection of the Syrian population; accountability for perpetrators; and justice for victims including full reparations.

The situation on the ground continues to deteriorate, as demonstrated by the ongoing widespread unlawful killings, including summary and extrajudicial executions; enforced disappearances; torture and ill-treatment; arbitrary detentions; repression of human rights defenders; and continued restrictions on internet and phone communications, and on the ability of the media and human rights and humanitarian organisations to have access to Syria.

It is the responsibility of the international community to take robust measures to ensure the immediate protection of the Syrian population. In this regard, the ICJ welcomed the Council's decision to establish a Commission of Inquiry to assess the situation in Syria. The Commission must be supported with all the necessary resources to establish the facts and circumstances and to ensure a comprehensive consideration of accountability issues. The Syrian Government must fully cooperate with the Commission, including by granting it unrestricted access to all individuals and information requested under the mandate of the Commission. The Syrian Government must also refrain from any act of intimidation or reprisals against victims and witnesses who would cooperate with the Commission.

Madam President,

What matters most now, in addition to the immediate and unconditional end of repression, is accountability. We again urge all States represented in this room to push for the Security Council to address the systematic and widespread violations in Syria. Many of these violations amount to crimes against humanity and the Security Council must urgently address them, including by referring the situation to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

I thank you.

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