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Statement of Ireland

57th session of the Human Rights Council

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

20 September 2024

Ireland aligns with the EU statement and thanks the Commission for its update.

Ireland is deeply troubled by the scale and breadth of your findings.

Indiscriminate attacks on civilians, including minors, acts of torture and ill-treatment, rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, forced recruitment, looting and appropriation of civilian property have all continued unabated since you last updated this Council. There is a complete disregard of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by all parties.

We note that humanitarian needs are at their highest since the start of the conflict. The international community must ensure unobstructed delivery of humanitarian aid to all Syrians. Ireland also remains concerned by the continued risks to returning refugees, and reaffirms the need for their safe, voluntary and dignified return.

In this context, we are inspired by the resilience of the Syrian people; we as the international community must support them in their resolve to find a peaceful, rights-respecting and unified country.

Ireland will continue to support the Commission's work, which is vital to accountability and transparency.

We will also continue to support the International Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM) and its call for the situation in Syria to be referred to the International Criminal Court (ICC). And we welcome the establishment of the Independent Institution for Missing Persons in Syria.