



הארגון הבינלאומי של עורכי-דין ומשפטנים יהודים (ע"ר)
THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LAWYERS AND JURISTS (R.A.)

Human Rights Council 25th Session

Item 4 – ID with CoI on Syrian Arab Republic

NGO: IAJLJ - The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists

Representative delivering the statement: Adv. Tom Gal

Thank you Mr. President,

In the last three years, more than 150,000 people have lost their lives, most of them civilians. At least one million people have fled their homes, or were forced to do so, finding refuge in neighboring countries. Thousands of men, women and children have been arbitrarily detained, tortured and raped. Minorities have been targeted for their belief and religion. The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists is outraged by the information provided in the CoI current report. We commend the CoI for the report and its ongoing work. However, it does not reveal anything new; we have read and heard similar things in previous reports for the past three years. Unfortunately, and despite it, violence escalates; humanitarian access is denied in many areas and the number of refugees increases.

Moreover, we believe that the involvement of foreign actors in the conflict has not been properly addressed. It is well known that foreign actors, states and other non-state organizations, heavily support both parties to the conflict. Such support takes the form of supply of weapons, personnel and finance. Nevertheless, nothing has been done so far to stop such support and prevent it. We have addressed the matter in the past, and will continue to do so, as we cannot ignore its severity.

The CoI itself mentions *Hezbollah*, a recognized terrorist organization, being heavily involved in the fighting, supporting the Syrian regime forces. A few days ago, Israeli naval forces took over a shipment of heavy artillery and missiles from Syria to *Hamas*, administered and sponsored by Iran. Besides being a violation of international obligations, this would have enabled further support of the violence. It also reflects the high interests and involvement of Iran in different conflicts in the Middle East, and especially in the Syrian one. Unfortunately, during the Vienna negotiations last month, neither the western Powers, nor the EU representatives, found it urgent to ensure that Iran's involvement will stop, as part of the conditions put forward during the talks. We find it outrageous and absurd. It is essential that states use any diplomatic means available to them to put an end to the conflict in Syria, and especially to the heavy support and involvement of States and foreign actors.