



STÄNDIGE MISSION  
DES FÜRSTENTUMS LIECHTENSTEIN

MISSION PERMANENTE  
DE LA PRINCIPAUTÉ DE LIECHTENSTEIN

PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

*Check against delivery*

## **32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

### **Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic**

**21 June 2016**

#### **Intervention by H.E. Mr. Peter Matt, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein**

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein welcomes the ongoing work and efforts of the Commission of Inquiry in Syria and continues to be very alarmed by the situation on the ground. We were particularly concerned by the findings of the most recent report of the Commission that the so-called Islamic State is committing genocide against Yazidis in Syria and call on all States Parties to the Genocide Convention to fulfill their obligations under the convention.

The documentation of atrocity crimes committed by all parties to the conflict is essential to ensure that perpetrators will be held criminally accountable in the long-run. Liechtenstein continues to call on all actors to guarantee that accountability is part of any political settlement of the conflict. We also reiterate our call on the Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court (ICC). However, as the ICC is a Court of last resort, it will only be able to prosecute those most responsible. It is therefore essential that the international community intensifies its efforts to close the impunity gap. We welcome the ongoing criminal proceeding processes in various States, aimed at investigating and prosecuting individuals under the principle of universal jurisdiction, on whom there is evidence that they have committed atrocity crimes in Syria. Liechtenstein is organizing a side-event to this end on Tuesday, 21 June, together with Qatar at the United Nations Headquarter in New York.

In light of the recent undertakings by some States, we have the following questions:

1. How does the Commission work with States who are carrying out judicial proceedings against individuals who have committed serious violations of international humanitarian law in Syria? If yes, what is the procedure in place to share this information and what are the safeguards to protect witnesses and victims?
2. [What is the view of the Commission on the peace talks that have taken place so far to bring about a political solution for Syria, in particular with respect to the dimension of accountability?]