

26th Session of the Human Rights Council – 17th June 2014

**Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on Syria**

Intervention by the Czech Republic

Mr. President,

The Czech Republic supports the intervention delivered on behalf of the European Union earlier in this debate.

We are deeply concerned by the devastating situation in Syria, systematic violations and abuses of international human rights and humanitarian law, including the reported war crimes and crimes against humanity.

We strongly call on the Government forces and pro-Government militias as well as on the non-State armed groups to stop using sieges, blockades and militarization of hospitals, schools and other civilian facilities as a method of warfare. All the conflicting parties have to avoid establishing military positions in populated areas and desist from attacks directed against civilians. We reiterate the need for all sides to fully implement the Security Council resolution 2139 without fail.

We are appalled by the fact that thousands of civilians have been victims of torture and other forms of ill-treatment, as well as sexual and gender-based violence and violence based on religious or ethnic affiliation. We are equally alarmed by the gross violations of children's rights and the rights of other vulnerable groups, and by the numerous attacks against journalists and media workers.

Mr. President,

We have to seek justice for the victims and end the impunity of perpetrators of these heinous crimes. We reiterate our call on the international community to ensure accountability, including by referring the situation to the International Criminal Court.

In light of the dramatic human rights situation in Syria, we would like to underline that the only solution to the Syrian conflict is a genuine political transition, based on the full implementation of the Geneva Communiqué. Unfortunately, the 3 June Presidential elections undermined the prospects for such a peaceful settlement.

Thank you, Mr. President.