

**26th Session of the Universal Periodic Review
(31 October - 11 November 2016)
Review of the Syrian Arab Republic**

**Statement by Ireland
31 October 2016**

Thank you Mr President.

Ireland thanks the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic for the presentation of its report.

Ireland condemns the atrocities committed by the regime of Mr Bashar Al-Assad and its allies, which include the deliberate targeting of civilians, the violent suppression of civilian protests, forced displacement, mass detention without trial *and torture and murder in detention facilities and may amount to war crimes*. I reiterate Ireland's support for referral of the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court.

Ireland calls for full access to international monitors, including the Independent International Committee of Inquiry and Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council and OHCHR.

Ireland **recommends** that the Assad regime comply with international human rights law and international humanitarian law in immediately ceasing its excessive, indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks on civilians.

Ireland also **recommends** that the Assad regime and its allies lift all restrictions on humanitarian access to populations in need of assistance in particular to

besieged and hard-to-reach areas and call for the safe evacuation of those civilians who wish to leave, particularly those in Aleppo and the 15 other territories the UN has classified as besieged by the regime.