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Human Rights Council 23rd Session

Urgent Debate: The Deteriorating Situation of Human Rights in the Syrian Arab Republic and the Recent Killings in Al Qusayr

Statement by the Government of Japan

Geneva, 29 May 2013

Thank you, Mr President,

Japan is deeply concerned by the escalating armed violence in Syria as well as the deteriorating humanitarian situation, which could spread to the region as a whole. We strongly condemn the continuing extremely grave violations of human rights in Syria to which innocent civilians including many women and children have fallen victim. The deployment of forces in and around residential areas and indiscriminate attacks against civilians are intolerable.

Japan condemns all violence in Syria and urges its immediate end. It is vital that a thorough investigation into the human rights violations take place, including those reported in Al Qusayr, and that those responsible be held accountable.

In order to improve the situation, we strongly call on all parties to the conflict to

observe all relevant international law including humanitarian law as well as to guarantee unfettered humanitarian access to all the affected areas.

In order to reach a breakthrough, it is essential that the international community offer its united support to bring all parties concerned to dialogue, leading to a political transition that reflects the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people. Japan will continue to cooperate closely with the international community and to make the utmost diplomatic efforts in order to end the crisis in Syria.

Thank you.