

Human Rights Council, 22nd Session

Item 4: ID with COI Syria

Geneva, 11 March 2013

Thank you, Mr. President,

Japan appreciates the detailed report which the Commission of Inquiry has produced in spite of the challenging circumstances where the Commission has not been granted an access to Syria. The death toll now exceeds 70,000 in Syria, and we find the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation deplorable and regrettable.

Japan is deeply concerned by the Commission's conclusion that government forces and affiliated militia as well as anti-government armed groups have committed violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, including crimes against humanity. Japan especially condemns the Syrian authorities for their indiscriminate

attacks against their own citizens. It is vital that a thorough investigation be conducted into these human rights violations and that those responsible for such violations be identified. In order to improve the humanitarian situation, Japan urges all parties in the conflict to comply with relevant international law, including humanitarian law, and to provide unfettered humanitarian access.

In addition, along with condemning all violence, Japan calls for the immediate end to all violence. An inclusive dialogue is necessary to achieve a lasting peace in Syria, and Japan supports the efforts of Special Envoy Brahimi toward the realization of a peace process for a transfer of power that meets the aspirations of the Syrian people.

In conclusion, Japan supports the extension of the Commission's mandate. We call on the Syrian Government to cooperate fully with the Commission.

Thank you.