

# **Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council at its seventeenth special session**

## **S-17/1. Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic**

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Guided by* the Charter of the United Nations,

*Reaffirming* the purposes and principles of the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and that all States are bound to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Recalling* article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights with regard to rights that may not be derogated from under any circumstances, even in a public emergency,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolutions 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and 65/281 of 17 June 2011,

*Recalling further* Human Rights Council resolution S-16/1 of 29 April 2011, on the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic in the context of recent events,

*Recalling* the statement by the President of the Security Council S/PRST/2011/16 of 3 August 2011,

*Taking note* of the fact that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights briefed the Security Council on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic on 18 August 2011,

*Taking note also* of the recent statements by the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner, and of the joint statement of the Human Rights Council special procedures mandate holders of 5 August 2011 on the human rights violations in the Syrian Arab Republic,

*Noting* the statements of the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation of 14 August 2011 and of the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States of 7 August 2011, in which they expressed their concerns over the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic,

*Reaffirming* that all States Members of the United Nations should refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations,

1. *Strongly condemns* the continued grave and systematic human rights violations by the Syrian authorities, such as arbitrary executions, excessive use of force and the killing and persecution of protesters and human rights defenders, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, torture and ill-treatment of detainees, including of children;
2. *Welcomes* the publication of the report of the fact-finding mission dispatched by the Office of the United High Commissioner for Human Rights pursuant to Human A/HRC/S-17/2 Rights Council resolution S-16/1, and expresses profound concern about its findings, including that there were patterns of human rights violations that may amount to crimes against humanity;
3. *Deplores* the continued indiscriminate attacks on the Syrian population, and calls upon the Syrian authorities to cease immediately all acts of violence against it;
4. *Calls upon* the Syrian authorities to immediately put an end to all human rights violations, to protect the population and to fully comply with their obligations under international human rights law, and calls for an immediate end to all violence in the Syrian Arab Republic;
5. *Calls upon* the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to release immediately all prisoners of conscience and arbitrarily detained persons, as well as to cease immediately any intimidation, persecution and arbitrary arrests of individuals, including journalists, lawyers and human rights defenders;

6. *Urges* the Syrian authorities to allow independent media to operate in the Syrian Arab Republic without undue restrictions, to allow access to the Internet and telecommunications networks for all, and to lift censorship on reporting;

7. *Expresses concern* at the humanitarian situation and urges the Syrian authorities to ensure timely, safe and unhindered access for all humanitarian agencies and workers and to ensure the safe passage of humanitarian and medical supplies into the country;

8. *Calls for* a Syrian-led political process and for an inclusive, credible and genuine national dialogue conducted in an environment without fear and intimidation, with the aim of effectively addressing the legitimate aspirations and concerns of the Syrian population aimed at the promotion and protection of their human rights;

9. *Regrets* that previous calls for a genuine dialogue have not been answered and also the lack of progress in the implementation of the announced commitments of political reform by the Syrian authorities;

10. *Reinforces its call* upon the Syrian authorities to cooperate fully with the Office of the High Commissioner and Human Rights Council mechanisms, and expresses its deep regret over the non-compliance by the Syrian authorities with Council resolution S-16/1 and the non-cooperation with the Office's fact-finding mission;

11. *Encourages* relevant thematic special procedures mandate holders, within their respective mandates, to continue to pay particular attention to the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic, and urges the Syrian authorities to cooperate with those mandate holders, including by allowing country visits;

12. *Stresses the need* for an international, transparent, independent and prompt investigation into violations of international law, including international human rights law, and to hold those responsible to account;

13. *Decides* to dispatch urgently an independent international commission of inquiry, to be appointed by the President of the Human Rights Council, to investigate all alleged violations of international human rights law since March 2011 in the Syrian Arab Republic, to establish the facts and circumstances that may amount to such violations and of the crimes perpetrated and, where possible, to identify those responsible with a view to ensuring that perpetrators of violations, including those that may constitute crimes against humanity, are held accountable;

14. *Requests* that the report of the above-mentioned commission of inquiry be made public as soon as possible and, in any case, before the end of November 2011, and also requests the commission of inquiry to present a written update to the report on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic at the nineteenth session of the Human Rights Council, in an interactive dialogue with the participation of the High Commissioner;

15. *Decides* to transmit the report of the commission of inquiry and the update thereto to the General Assembly, and recommends that the Assembly transmit the reports to all relevant bodies of the United Nations;

16. *Calls upon* the Syrian authorities to cooperate fully with the commission of inquiry;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner to provide the full administrative, technical and logistical support needed to enable the commission of inquiry to carry out its mandate;

18. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Human Rights Council at its nineteenth session;

19. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.