



Oral Statement

Human Rights Council 46th session

Interactive Dialogue with Commission of Inquiry on Syrian Arab Republic

11 March 2021

Delivered by Gloria Leccese

Madam President,

This year Syria marks the sad tenth anniversary of the conflict, which according to a recent report¹ by World Vision International has taken almost 600 thousand lives of civilians, including 55 thousand children.

The World Evangelical Alliance supports the Commission of Inquiry's call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire.

We also appeal to all parties involved in the conflict in Northeastern and Northwestern Syria, the areas presently mostly affected by the armed conflict, and where members of religious minorities have been targeted and displaced in mass, to cease their human rights and humanitarian law violations.

We endorse the Commission's acknowledgment of the detrimental effect of unilateral coercive measures on the Syrian civilian population. We call for the removal of sanctions that prevent the Syrian population from accessing basic needs and services, essential health supplies, including access to COVID-19 vaccines and treatments.

We also call on the international community to provide humanitarian assistance for rebuilding basic and essential infrastructure destroyed by the war, and for creating economic opportunities for the impoverished Syrian population.

We would like to ask the Commission what immediate first steps States involved in the Syrian conflict should take towards a permanent ceasefire?

Thank you.

¹ https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/FINAL_Syria%2010th%20Anniversary%20Global%20Policy%20Report_small.pdf