



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
2 March 2018

Original: English

ORAL REVISIONS

2/3/2018 AT 14:45

Human Rights Council

Thirty-seventh session

26 February–23 March 2018

Agenda item 1

Organizational and procedural matters

Belgium, Bulgaria,* Czechia,* Denmark,* Estonia,* Finland,* France,* Germany, Ireland,* Lithuania,* Netherlands,* New Zealand,* Poland,* Sweden,* United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America: draft resolution

37/... The deteriorating situation of human rights in Eastern Ghouta, in the Syrian Arab Republic

The Human Rights Council,

Having held an urgent debate to discuss the deteriorating situation of human rights in Eastern Ghouta, in the Syrian Arab Republic, which is currently under siege by the Syrian authorities,

Recalling [the principles of the Charter of the United Nations](#), all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Human Rights Council, the most recent of which were Human Rights Council resolution 36/20 of 29 September 2017, General Assembly resolution 72/191 of 19 December 2017 and Security Council resolutions 2393 (2017) of 19 December 2017 and 2401 (2018) of 24 February 2018,

Recalling also the statement of the Secretary-General to the Human Rights Council, on 26 February 2018, including his clear position that Security Council resolution 2401 (2018) must be immediately implemented and sustained, in particular, to ensure the immediate, safe, unimpeded and sustained delivery of humanitarian assistance, the evacuation of the critically sick and wounded, and the alleviation of the suffering of the Syrian people, as well as his reiteration that all parties have [obligations](#) in international humanitarian law [regarding the protection of](#) civilians and civilian infrastructure,

Recalling further the press release of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on 21 February 2018 and his statement to the Human Rights Council on 26 February, in which he expressed alarm at the escalation of continued hostilities in Eastern Ghouta and called for an immediate cessation of hostilities, and stressed the imperative of granting immediate humanitarian access and ensuring swift facilitation of evacuations of the sick and wounded, as well as civilians wishing to leave, adding that any political agreement regarding Eastern Ghouta must be in conformity with international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and that no forced displacement of civilians should take place as a result of such a political agreement,

* State not a member of the Human Rights Council.

Matthew Forman * (... , 3/2/2018 12:16 PM

Deleted: an

Matthew Forman * (... , 3/2/2018 12:16 PM

Deleted: to protect

GE.18-03269(E)

1803269

Please recycle



Emphasizing the need for accountability for [human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law](#) committed by all parties to the armed conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, and underlining in this respect the important role of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic and the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic,

1. *Strongly condemns* all violations of international humanitarian law and [all](#) violations and abuses of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Syrian Arab Republic;

2. *Also strongly condemns* the sustained denial of humanitarian access, the repeated attacks against medical facilities and civilian infrastructure, [in contravention of international humanitarian law](#), and [the indiscriminate use of heavy weapons and aerial bombardments against civilians](#), and the [alleged use of chemical weapons in Eastern Ghouta](#);

3. *Welcomes* Security Council resolution 2401 (2018), in which the Council demanded that all parties to the conflict cease hostilities without delay for at least 30 consecutive days to [enable](#) the safe, unimpeded and sustained delivery of humanitarian assistance and medical evacuations of the critically sick and wounded, in accordance with applicable international law, and calls for its full and immediate implementation by all parties to the conflict;

4. *Calls upon* all parties, in particular the Syrian authorities, to meet their responsibility to protect the Syrian population and to end immediately all attacks against civilians in Eastern Ghouta, [whereas the growing number of civilian casualties in Damascus are also of concern as delays in implementation of the ceasefire cause more suffering on all sides](#);

5. *Stresses* the need to ensure accountability for those responsible for violations and abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law in Eastern Ghouta, and also stresses that those responsible for violations and abuses of international human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law in all areas of the Syrian Arab Republic must be held to account;

6. *Demands* that [all parties, particularly the Syrian authorities allow safe, unimpeded and sustained access by the United Nations, their implementing partners, and humanitarian operators to all people in need, including immediate access for aid deliveries and medical evacuations to and from Eastern Ghouta, and the protection of medical and other humanitarian personnel, facilities and transport](#);

7. *Requests* the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, [upon renewal of its mandate](#), to urgently conduct a comprehensive and independent inquiry into the recent events in Eastern Ghouta, and to provide an update followed by an interactive dialogue on the situation to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-eighth session;

8. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter and to take further action on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Matthew Forman * (... , 3/2/2018 12:27 PM

Deleted: war crimes and crimes against humanity

Matthew Forman * (... , 3/2/2018 12:17 PM

Deleted: and to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations

Matthew Forman * (... , 3/2/2018 12:28 PM

Deleted: the widespread and systematic gross

Matthew Forman * (... , 3/2/2018 12:30 PM

Deleted: other

Michaela Throup (Se..., 3/2/2018 2:05 PM

Deleted: use of cluster munitions, and any

Matthew Forman * (... , 3/2/2018 12:34 PM

Deleted: , including cluster munitions

Michaela Throup (Se..., 3/2/2018 2:05 PM

Deleted: incendiary weapons and barrel bombs

Michaela Throup (Se..., 3/2/2018 2:05 PM

Deleted: by the Syrian authorities aga

Matthew Forman * (... , 3/2/2018 12:29 PM

Deleted: inst civilians in the Syrian Arab Republic, including against the people living in

Matthew Forman * (... , 3/2/2018 12:40 PM

Deleted: allow

Matthew Forman * (... , 3/2/2018 12:42 PM

Deleted: ;

Matthew Forman * (... , 3/2/2018 12:42 PM

Deleted: serious

Matthew Forman * (... , 3/2/2018 12:45 PM

Deleted: free