

Chair,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands aligns itself with the statement made by the EU and expresses its deepest appreciation for the work of the Commission of Inquiry.

Over a decade ago, a cruel fate was imposed on the Syrian population due to the regime's decision to crack down on its own people.

In regime-controlled areas, the horrific practice of arbitrary detention, including torture and ill-treatment, continues to take place systematically.

And millions of Syrians are still kept in the dark about the fate of their missing loved ones.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands therefore welcomes the report of the Secretary General on missing persons in Syria and supports the recommendation to establish a new international entity specifically dedicated to them.

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Chair,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands has always denounced and condemned human rights violations in Syria. And more than that: we have taken action to hold perpetrators to account.

By consistently supporting UN mandated entities, such as the IIIM and Commission of Inquiry.

And, even more directly, by holding Syria responsible for violating the UN Convention against Torture, together with Canada.

We will not waiver in those efforts.

In conclusion, allow me to reiterate the EU's Syria policy that there will be no normalization, no lifting of sanctions, and no reconstruction until a political transition as set out in Resolution 2254 is firmly underway.

Thank you