

UN Human Rights Council 49: UK statement for the interactive dialogue with UN Commission of Inquiry on Syria

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Speech

The UK's Global Ambassador for Human Rights, Rita French delivered the statement, reiterating that in Syria, as in Ukraine, there can be no impunity for violations of international humanitarian and human rights law.

From:

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and Rita French

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Thank you Mr President, Commissioners.

As we watch with horror events in Ukraine, I want to send a clear message to the Syrian people: we have not forgotten you. We know that you continue to suffer abominable human rights violations at the hands of the Syrian authorities and its allies – including Putin's Russia.

President Putin's barbaric tactics in Ukraine will, sadly, be all too familiar to the millions of Syrians suffering at the hands of the Assad regime - with Moscow's backing.

The Commission of Inquiry provides a voice to the Syrian people and we must listen. Its latest report could not be clearer - war crimes and crimes against humanity continue to be committed. Both the Syrian regime and Russian forces have carried out indiscriminate bombardment of civilian-populated areas, including attacking hospitals and schools.

In Syria, as in Ukraine, there can be no impunity for violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. Perpetrators must – and will - be held to account.

Commissioners,

What recommendations do you have to improve coordination and effectiveness of accountability efforts targeting the regime and its Russian backers?

Thank you.

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