Foreign & Commonwealth Office (UK)

Foreign Secretary: el-Houla atrocities "must be investigated"

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“I welcome today’s meeting of the Human Rights Council and the adoption of a resolution on Syria which Britain co-sponsored.

“We believe that the acts committed by the Syrian regime may amount to crimes against humanity and other international crimes, and demonstrate a pattern of widespread and systematic attacks against civilian populations.

“Evidence from the UN Supervision Mission in Syria and independent witnesses has confirmed that security forces shelled the village of el-Houla and that government militia then went house to house slaughtering entire families without compassion or mercy.

“These atrocities must be investigated, and those responsible must be held to account. A special and independent investigation into el-Houla is essential - including to ensure that evidence is gathered and preserved for future justice processes.

“Britain will support these efforts, and will continue to prepare the ground for a referral of the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court.”

The resolution was passed with 41 votes in favour and 3 against.

Source: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-el-houla-atrocities-must-be-investigated