



Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia
at the
38th Session of the UN Human Rights Council
**Item 4: Interactive dialogue with the Independent International Commission of
Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic**

Geneva, 26 June 2018

Mr President,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement of the EU.

Slovenia thanks the Commission of Inquiry (CoI) for its comprehensive report on the siege and recapture of eastern Ghouta by the Syrian pro-Government forces in the period between February and March 2018.

The Commission in its report clearly recognises that by indiscriminate attacks, widespread bombardments, denial of food and medicine to besieged civilians claiming hundreds of civilian lives, pro-Government forces committed war crimes and crimes against humanity. These atrocious acts, which we highly deplore, were preceded by forced displacement of some 140.000 individuals from eastern Ghouta. We also condemn in the strongest terms war crimes committed by armed groups and members of terrorist organisations by indiscriminate shelling of civilian inhabited areas in Damascus.

As the gross and widespread systematic violations of human rights law and international humanitarian law in Syria continue, we call for justice and accountability for all. Therefore the role of the CoI is vital for gathering evidence and investigating all violations and abuses of international human rights and international humanitarian law. The comprehensive results of CoI's work thus far should guide UN Security Council and UN General Assembly to assume their responsibility to protect and refer the situation in Syria to the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court for further proceedings.

In conclusion, I would like to stress strong support of Slovenia to the mandate of the CoI.

Thank you!