



STALNO PREDSTAVNIŠTVO REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE PRI URADU ZDRUŽENIH  
NARODOV IN OSTALIH MEDNARODNIH ORGANIZACIJAH V ŽENEVI

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**

**Twenty-fifth Special Session of the Human Rights Council  
on the deteriorating situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic, and the recent  
situation in Aleppo**

**Statement by the Republic of Slovenia**

**Geneva, 21 October 2016**

Mr President,

Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statement.

The catastrophic deterioration of the human rights and humanitarian situation in Syria, and in particular in eastern Aleppo, calls for the urgent attention of international community. We welcome the convening of a special session of the Human Rights Council on the deteriorating situation of human rights in Syrian Arab Republic and the Aleppo situation.

We are profoundly concerned about reports regarding indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks on civilians by all parties to the conflict, including by the Government forces and its backers, as well as Daesh and other terrorist groups. Aleppo has been the target of escalating violence and indiscriminate attacks that have been causing unspeakable human suffering and innumerable deaths among civilians, including children.

We condemn all violations and abuses of international human rights and humanitarian law by all parties, including against the most vulnerable – children and persons with disabilities, as well as violations based on gender, age, ethnicity and religion. We also condemn the sustained and targeted attacks against medical workers and facilities, and reiterate that medical personnel as well as hospitals and other medical facilities enjoy special protection under international humanitarian law.

We call urgently for a lasting cessation of hostilities that will allow sustainable humanitarian access and meaningful aid to be delivered to the civilians in besieged Aleppo and in other parts of the country.

Accountability and an end to impunity for violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict is a prerequisite for finding a durable solution. We support calls to investigate human rights violations in Aleppo, and also call for the referral of the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court.

While all parties to the conflict are responsible for grave violations, and what may well amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes, we reiterate that the Syrian authorities have the primary responsibility to protect the Syrian population.

The only solution for Syria is through a political process. Thus, we express full support for the efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria to lay ground for the resumption of intra-Syrian talks. We underline that the peace process needs to fully take into consideration respect for human rights and humanitarian law, as well as demand accountability for its infringement. In order to lay the groundwork for sustainable political solution, full and meaningful participation of women in these processes is also of vital importance.

Thank you.