



Mission permanente d'Israël  
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies  
et des Organisations Internationales à Genève

משלחת ישראל  
ליד משרד האומות המאוחדות  
והארגונים הבינלאומיים בג'נבה

*Check against Delivery*

H.E. Aharon Leshno Yaar  
Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of Israel  
To the United Nations, Geneva

Human Rights Council  
Eighteenth Special Session  
on the human rights situation in Syria  
General Debate

22 August 2011

Madame President,

Israel, like so many other concerned States, watches with shock and grave concern the horrific news relentlessly coming from Syria over the past months. We see the continuous trampling of freedoms, the unjust murder of innocent citizens and the pathetic attempts of the regime to avoid its most basic responsibilities of protecting the lives and safety of its own citizens.

Israel, together with all freedom loving people, salutes the defiance of so many Syrians who continue to stand up for their rights despite the dangers, despite the repression, despite the mass murder. Israel hopes for all Syrians, men and women, young and old, people of all faiths and backgrounds, to be able to fulfill their right to live in an open and free democratic society that respects individual freedoms, adheres to the rule of law and gives hope and concern for the welfare of its people.

As a neighboring state to Syria, all Israelis hope for better times for the people of that country. We are convinced that positive changes there will improve relations across our border, throughout our region and lead to a future for Syrians that will most certainly include freedom, peace and prosperity.

I thank you.