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Human Rights Council  
Twenty-Third session  
Agenda item 1  
Organizational and procedural matters

**23/. The deteriorating situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic, and the recent killings in Al-Qusayr**

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations,

Having held an urgent debate to discuss the deteriorating situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic, and the recent killings in Al-Qusayr which is currently under siege by the Syrian regime,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 66/176 of 19 December 2011 and 66/253 of 16 February 2012, and 67/262 of 15 May 2013, and Human Rights Council resolutions S-16/1 of 29 April 2011, S-17/1 of 22 August 2011, S-18/1 of 2 December 2011, 19/1 of 1 March 2012 and 19/22 of 23 March 2012 and 22 / 24 of 22 March 2013, and Security Council resolutions 2042 (2012) of 14 April 2012 and 2043 (2012) of 21 April 2012,

*Recalling* the 10 May 2013 statement of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in which she expressed alarm at reports of major military build-up around the western Syrian town of Al Qusayr, saying she feared further atrocities and increasing displacement of the local civilian population,

*Reaffirming* its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic and to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Strongly condemns* all violations of international humanitarian law and the widespread and systematic gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms by the Syrian authorities and the Government-affiliated militias, such as those involving the regime's use of ballistic missiles and other heavy weapons against civilians in Syria, including against the people of Al-Qusayr;
2. *Calls upon* the Syrian authorities to meet their responsibility to protect the Syrian population, and to put an immediate end to all attacks against the civilians of Al-Qusayr;
3. *Stresses* the need to ensure accountability for those responsible for the massacre in Al-Qusayr, and further stresses the importance of holding to account all those responsible for the serious violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, in Syria;
4. *Condemns* the intervention of foreign combatants fighting on behalf of the Syrian regime in Al-Qusayr, and expresses deep concern that their involvement poses a serious threat to regional stability;

5. *Demands* that the Syrian authorities allow free and unimpeded access by the United Nations and humanitarian agencies to all civilians affected by the violence, especially in Al-Qusayr, including by providing authorization for cross-border humanitarian operations as an urgent priority;
6. *Decides to* remain seized of the matter and to take further action on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic.