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 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.*