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ORAL STATEMENT

Item 4: Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic

UN Human Rights Council
Forty-third session
24 February – 20 March 2020

Madam President,

Amnesty International welcomes the [report](#) of the Commission of Inquiry and echoes the Commission's grave concerns regarding the ongoing humanitarian and human rights crisis in Syria.

In May 2019, Amnesty International [documented](#) the deliberate and systematic assault on hospitals and medical facilities carried out by the Syrian government with the support of Russia. These attacks are part of a well-established pattern targeting medical facilities to systematically attack the civilian population, documented throughout the Syrian conflict. They amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. In recent weeks, the Syrian government continued to deliberately target medical facilities eliminating vital lifelines for civilians in desperate need of medical care.

Since December 2019, the Syrian government, with the support and in some cases the direct involvement of Russian forces, further escalated attacks on the civilian population displacing at least 900,000 people and killing around 465 civilians. Tens of thousands live without adequate shelter in overcrowded camps and informal sites such as mosques, schools, and unfinished buildings. Less than two weeks ago, the Syrian government attacked 10 schools during school hours killing and injuring several children and teachers.

Madam President,

Today, four million people in Idlib depend on humanitarian aid to survive. Security Council resolution 2165 allowing UN cross-border delivery of aid was renewed in January only for a period of six months. We urge all states to ensure the renewal of the mechanism which has offered a lifeline for civilians in north-west Syria.

Yet another humanitarian catastrophe is unfolding in Syria. The international community must insist that the Syrian government, Russia, and armed opposition groups and their allies end unlawful attacks on civilians and civilian objects and allow humanitarian assistance to flow to those in desperate need of it.

Thank you.