

*Représentation permanente de la Belgique auprès des Nations Unies et auprès des institutions spécialisées à Genève*

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| **WG UPR 26 – Syria**  ***Intervention of Belgium***  31st of October 2016 |

Mr. President,

Belgium wishes to express its strong solidarity with the people of Syria, who continue to suffer immensely due to the ongoing conflict.

Belgium deeply deplores the systematic, widespread and gross violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, in particular the great increase of enforced disappearances and the arbitrary arrests on a large scale. Belgium also remains very concerned about the impact of the conflict on Syrian children.

We therefore recommend the Government of Syria:

**R1.** To cooperate with the Working Group on Enforced Disappearances;

**R2**. To allow independent international monitoring bodies unconditional access to detention facilities in order to perform their functions;

**R3.** To guarantee effective protection of child rights, including access to education and protection from child labor.

I thank you, Mr. President.