**UPR 26, October 31, 2016**

**Recommendations by Canada for Syria’s UPR**

Canada remains gravely concerned by the appalling human rights situation in Syria.

Canada recommends that Syria:

1. Immediately cease all acts of violence and abuses committed against civilians, and allow for the timely and unfettered delivery of humanitarian assistance, particularly in hard-to-reach and besieged areas.
2. Allow for thorough, transparent and independent investigations into all reports of alleged human rights violations and abuses as well as violations of international humanitarian and human rights law since March 2011, and bring the perpetrators to justice;
3. Immediately release human rights defenders and other prisoners of conscience, particularly those detained and imprisoned for participating in peaceful demonstrations since March 2011; and
4. Immediately halt the practice of enforced disappearance, arbitrary arrest and detention, and the systemic use of torture, and meet its obligations as a state party to the Convention against Torture.

**Observations**

The Assad regime and its backers’ indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure, including deliberate targeting of medical facilities and personnel, amount to gross violations of international humanitarian and human rights law.

The conflict has caused the unnecessary death of hundreds of thousands, the displacement of millions, and threatened the stability of the region. A prompt, monitored and enforceable cessation of hostilities and genuine discussions on the future of the country are essential for a peaceful resolution.