**U.S. Statement on the Syrian Arab Republic**

**at the Universal Periodic Review 40th Session**

**As delivered by Ambassador Crocker, Amb. to the UN in Geneva**

The United States remains appalled by the human rights situation in Syria. We reiterate our recommendations from 2016 on which we have seen no progress:

1. To cease violence against civilians immediately and enter good faith negotiations on a political solution to the conflict;
2. To grant unhindered access for humanitarian assistance, including to besieged and hard-to-reach areas; and
3. To cease egregious abuses against prisoners; allow for immediate, unhindered access to and medical services for all detainees; and release Syrians who have been arbitrarily imprisoned and held without trial.

The UN Syria Commission of Inquiry has documented a worsening human rights situation due to targeted killings, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, siege-like tactics that may rise to collective punishment, hostage-taking, and torture.

The government’s continued flagrant violations and abuses flout efforts by the international community to broker a political solution to the conflict. We call for an immediate end to all violations and abuses by the Assad regime.