

FIDH calls the Security Council to take on its responsibility and trigger the jurisdiction of the Court over Syria FIDH 12th January 2013 More than 50 States request the Security Council to refer the Syrian situation to the ICC

In a letter that will be presented next Monday 14 January to the President of the Security Council of the United Nations (UNSC), Switzerland, jointly with more than 50 States from all over the world, including several members of the UNSC, will request the Security Council to refer the Syrian situation to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC).(...)

Since September 2011, the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria -mandated by the UN Human Rights Council- warned about the commission of crimes against humanity by governmental forces. Since then, serious crimes are being committed against the Syrian population. Progressively, violent fighting has increasingly opposed the forces of Bashar al-Assad and rebel groups. On 15 August 2012, the Commission of Inquiry established that war crimes and crimes against humanity had been committed in Syria. According the latest UN statistics, the conflict would have led to a toll of 60 000 victims in two years.

The letter that will be presented to the Security Council under the Swiss initiative observes that the government of Bashar al-Assad has *“not reacted to repeated calls from the international community to ensure accountability through a national procedure which needs to be credible, fair and independent in order to bring all perpetrators of alleged serious crimes to justice”*

FIDH considers that the ICC has a key role to play in the resolution of the Syrian conflict and must complement the international mediation efforts. *“Peace in Syria can only be effective if those most responsible for the most serious crimes -whatever their affiliation- face justice. The future of Syria can only be built on a strong fight against impunity”* declared Souhayr Belhassen. (...)

FIDH calls all States to join the Swiss initiative and the 15 members of the Security Council to immediately adopt a resolution referring the Syrian situation to the ICC. Such a resolution -as suggested by the letter initiated by Switzerland would have a dissuasive effect and would send a strong message to all parties to the conflict for the respect of human rights and humanitarian law. **Read the full statement [here](#) .**