

Thank you honorable chair,

After World War I, the use of chemical and biological weapons was banned by the internationally agreed upon Geneva Protocol. In early April, the Syrian government led by President Bashar al-Assad, **negated** this agreement with yet another chemical weapons attack on his people. Eighty people were killed in this nerve gas bombing, and hundreds were affected. In 2014 alone, Assad's regime carried out over 1,450 haphazard air attacks against the people of Syria. The death count in Syria is now up to 470,000 people, half of which are civilians, and the Syrian government is responsible for 80% of them. 94% of those civilian deaths can be attributed to the Syria-Iran-Russia alliance. However, these rampant human rights abuses are not confined by Syria's borders. As a member of the U.S. led coalition against terrorism, we are well acquainted with the magnitude of ISIS's threat. Within the past 3 years, the "Islamic State" has had a hand in over 140 terrorist attacks in 29 countries outside of Iraq and Syria. These attacks have killed 2,043 civilians, putting humanity in a state of constant fear and costing the international community billions of dollars in defense. Yet even with these efforts, there were an estimated 30,000 foreign nationals fighting alongside ISIS in 2015. There are now an estimated 3.9 million Syrian refugees overwhelming states politically and fiscally. Australia alone has raised our refugee intake by over three thousand due to this crisis, not including the 12,000 new openings for Syrian and Iraqi asylum seekers. In the United Nations mission statement, it says that our purpose is to maintain international peace and security. The first step to achieving our goal is to put a stop to radical Islam and the crimes of the Syrian government at once.