

UN Child Rights Committee appalled at deliberate targeting of children in Syria UN Child Rights Committee

31 May 2012

The Committee on the Rights of the Child on Thursday strongly deplored the massacre that took place in the El Houleh area of Homs in Syria on 25 and 26 May in which at least 108 people, including 49 children, were killed. Most of these children were reportedly under the age of 10. The Committee expressed further alarm at reports by United Nations observers of the continued indiscriminate acts of violence and killings against the civilian population and the increasing number of civilian victims, particularly children.

“The Committee is deeply concerned that, since the beginning of protests in Syria in March 2011, hundreds of children have been killed, injured and detained, and that despite strong and repeated calls to the State and other parties to stop such grave violations, no action appears to have been taken,” the Committee stated. “We are appalled by information that in the El Houleh area, civilians - including children - could have been deliberately targeted.”

(...) The Committee reiterated “its deepest concern over credible, corroborated and consistent reports of gross violations of children’s rights that have been committed since the start of the uprising in March 2011, including arbitrary arrests and detentions, killings of children during demonstrations, torture and ill-treatment.”

It further stated: “The Committee reminds the State party that it bears the primary **responsibility to protect** its population and should therefore take immediate measures to stop the use of excessive and lethal force against civilians and to prevent further violence against children, including killing and injuring.”

The Committee (...) the Syrian Arab Republic to ensure that perpetrators of the latest massacre at El Houleh, as well as all those responsible for crimes against children taking place in Syria, are held accountable.

(...)

See the [full statement](#)

