

Conflict in Syria reaches new levels of brutality United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

4 June 2013

The United Nations commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic is presenting its latest report on the human rights situation in Syria. The Commission found that war crimes and gross human rights violations continue to be perpetrated on an ever larger scale as the violence escalates.

Crimes against humanity are being perpetrated by government forces and affiliated militias (...).

Anti-government armed groups (...) are committing war crimes on an increasing scale, including extra-judicial executions, torture, hostage-taking, and pillage. The violations and abuses committed by anti-Government armed groups did not reach the intensity and scale of those committed by Government forces and affiliated militias.

The commission found reasonable grounds to believe chemicals have been used as weapons, but did not identify the chemical agent, or the perpetrator. The commission remains convinced that a political settlement is the only means of stopping the violence.

This report covers the period from 15 January to 15 May 2013. (...)

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