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Intervention 3(a)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the floor. My name is Jian Badrakhan from International Centre for Human Rights of Kurds (IMK) Organization advocating the rights of Kurdish People which have been estimated to be about 40 million, more than 2 million in Syria, and the rest are distributed between Turkey, Iran, and Iraq.

The violation of the Human rights and basic freedom in Syria has grown in the last years. Peaceful demonstrations, students and also children have had their rights massively violated. They have been arrested and were murdered through the government and its security forces, military, para-military and police.

Syria violated the rights of the Kurds in the field of education, science, culture and information. The systematically trying to assimilate the Kurds and to destroy their culture, language and identity. This is a clear violation of Article 27 of the International Convention of Civil and Political Rights 1966 which guarantee the Minorities to use their language and enjoy their culture, and of Article 1 of the UN Declaration on Minorities which provides that States shall protect the existence of the national or ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic identity of minorities within their respective territories and shall encourage conditions for the promotion of that identity.

Suppression of the ethnic identity of the Kurds by Syrian authorities has taken many forms, such as:

- Names of all Kurdish villages are replaced by Arabic names;
- Prohibition of all non-Arabic shops names;
- Prohibition of any language except Arabic in all authorities, particularly in Hasaka Province;
- Shutdown of Kurdish shops that sell Kurdish music;
- Expelling students from the University just because of their exercising their rights and freedom of opinion.

The Kurdish minority in Syria is already deeply damaged by the permanent suppression of their existence. It needs the Syrian government to protect and to stop the attack on Kurdish identity and language which will ensure their existence. Constructive dialogue and cohabitation of different folks is the only peaceful means for a solution of many conflicts. The Syrian government should change its policies against the Kurds and stop trying to destroy the