

“ Over ten years, we have seen the same patterns of violence and human rights abuses that prompted protests and later sparked conflict now being practiced by almost all armed actors in Syria. As territorial control has shifted, children, women, men, and the elderly have been killed and maimed, displaced repeatedly, deprived of livelihoods, and left to suffer in the physical and economic ruins of their country. This continuing race to the bottom regarding respect for the rights of Syrians must stop. It is imperative for the parties to the conflict to remember that each person – regardless of where they live, who controls which territory, or their religious, ethnic, or political identities or those of their families or communities – possess intrinsic, fundamental human rights.



**Karen Koning Abuzayd**

Member of the Independent Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic