



25<sup>th</sup> session of the  
Human Rights Council  
Item4

**Human rights situations that require the Council's attention**  
**Delivered by Renate Bloem**

Thank you Mr. President

CIVICUS is deeply concerned about the situation in the **DPRK**, its unparalleled human rights violations, about the government's terrorization, murder, torture, mass starvation and lack of freedom of movement for its citizens. We therefore join recommendations of the Commission on Inquiry to ask the Security Council for DPRK's referral to the International Criminal Court (ICC)

CIVICUS also continues to be concerned about **Syria** and with the third year anniversary is supporting a new campaign to raise awareness about the ongoing crisis. [www.with-Syria.org](http://www.with-Syria.org):

- To stop the bloodshed,
- To ensure all those in need can access life-saving assistance.
- To commit to inclusive peace talks:

Regarding **Egypt**: CIVICUS shares the High Commissioner's and member States' concern and we reiterate our call that '*Silence is not an Option.*' We call for independent and impartial investigations of the killings of protesters and security forces and to make public the results of any fact finding commission.

In **Iran** we've seen little improvement in the conditions of the Iranian people despite the rhetoric and pledges by the new government. We call on the Council to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, call on Iran to cooperate with him, and set specific benchmarks for the Iranian government

Since 2011 CIVICUS has repeatedly called on the Government of **Bahrain** to halt the use of excessive force, and allow people the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression; warning that the continuation of suppression will escalate violence. Not only has the Government of Bahrain completely ignored calls from civil society, but the human rights situation has further deteriorated with the [passing](#) of laws that further limit and infringe on basic human rights. CIVICUS calls on the Council to urge the Bahrain Government to schedule an urgent visit for all six Special Rapporteurs that have requested visits. especially the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture to Bahrain. Thank you for your attention