

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC – ADD.4

FINLAND

1) Question:

- During the last six months, human rights organizations have continuously reported arbitrary arrests, forced disappearances, hindrance of access to medical treatment and use of lethal force against peaceful demonstrators including young children in Syria. What measures is the Syrian Government taking to end these human rights violations taken by the authorities against peaceful demonstrators and other civilians?

2) Question:

- The Syrian authorities have prevented humanitarian aid and caused shortage of water and electricity in certain areas of the country. International humanitarian organizations are not allowed to function in the country and volunteers of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent have been attacked while giving humanitarian aid. What measures are taken to allow non-restricted and safe functioning of both international and national humanitarian organizations in Syria?

3) Question:

- International journalists were banned from Syria soon after the beginning of the demonstrations in March 2011. What measures are taken to ensure full respect of freedom of expression and information in Syria?

SWEDEN

- Sweden would like to ask the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic what steps are taken to stop the violence in the country, including the killing of many civilians, and respect the non-derogable right to life, as enshrined in article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which Syria has been a party since 1969.
- Sweden would like to ask the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic what concrete steps are taken to end impunity and ensure that those responsible of serious human rights violations, irrespective of alleged perpetrator, are held accountable.
- Sweden would like to ask the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic how the amnesties granted for certain detainees have been implemented across the country and why there have been continuing mass arrests despite these announcements.
- Sweden would like to ask the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic what it does to ensure full respect for its obligations under the UN Convention

Against Torture, to which the Syrian Arab Republic acceded in 2004, and what procedures and laws are currently in place to prevent this practice.

- Sweden would like to ask the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to what extent the new text of law regulating freedom of assembly complies with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and in particular its articles 21-22 and how it is being implemented?