



ORDRE SOUVERAIN MILITAIRE ET HOSPITALIER
DE SAINT-JEAN DE JERUSALEM DE RHODES ET DE MALTE

MISSION PERMANENTE D'OBSERVATION AUPRES DE L'OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES
ET DES AUTRES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES A GENEVE

Human Rights Council – 25th special session

*Statement by Prof. Michel Veuthey
Deputy Permanent Observer of the Sovereign Order of Malta
Chargé d'affaires a.i.*

Geneva, 21 October 2016

Mr. Vice-President,

The Sovereign Order of Malta would like to support the appeals of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, of Professor Pinheiro and of many speakers at this special session in order to respect, in Aleppo and elsewhere in the region, for the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law and for Human Rights by all parties to the conflict.

As for **international humanitarian law**, we would like to highlight the protection of civilian persons against hostilities, of wounded and sick, medical staff, hospitals, and on the duty to let impartial humanitarian organisations have access to persons in need.

As for Human Rights, the Order of Malta would like to underline the importance of respecting the **freedom of religion** for all, including minorities.

Finally, the Order of Malta would like to support the efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General, Ambassador Staffan de Mistura, for a **peaceful solution** to the conflict, which is the only way to end this tragedy.

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President.

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