



Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean

Declaration on the situation in Syria

Brussels, 12 November 2012

The Bureau

1. Is shocked at the enormous number of innocent civilian victims in Syria, and reaffirms its commitment to halting violence;
2. Roundly condemns the use of cluster bombs by the Syrian army in air raids;
3. Considers that establishing responsibility for war crimes is a precondition for the national reconciliation which must follow the end of the conflict; with that in mind, supports the independent international committee of inquiry and calls for it to be able to carry out its work in Syria unhindered;
4. Asks the UN Security Council to find a consensus on ending violence in the Syrian conflict; supports the current movement within the UN General Assembly to call on the Security Council to refer the case of Syria to the International Criminal Court;
5. Calls on the European Union, the League of Arab States, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the UN – since the humanitarian emergency requires a collective effort – to step up their financial efforts and coordinate their humanitarian work for refugees; and in this context, welcomes the efforts undertaken by France, Italy and Morocco to provide aid and medical assistance to the Syrian refugees;
6. Welcomes, in that connection, the important role and major efforts of the neighbouring host states, including Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey; calls on the Member States of the European Union to show greater solidarity in admitting Syrian refugees;
7. Considers that any solution has to be political and will require the launching of an inclusive national dialogue tasked with working out a roadmap for a democratic transition that respects the religious and ethnic diversity of Syrian society, with the aim of establishing a state governed by the rule of law guaranteeing respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all its citizens;
8. Expresses concern at Syrian incursions into neighbouring countries and warns against a regional escalation of the armed conflict;
9. Is prepared, when the time comes, to engage with the democratically elected representatives of the Syrian people and to welcome them back into the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean.

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