Timeline of International Response to the Situation in Syria

Beginning with dates of a few key events that initiated the unrest in March 2011, this timeline provides a chronological list of important news and actions from local, national, and international actors in response to the situation in Syria.

Skip to: [2012] [2013] [2014] [2015] [Most Recent]

Acronyms:

- *EU* – European Union
- *CoI* – United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Syria
- *FSA* – Free Syrian Army
- *GCC* – Gulf Cooperation Council
- *HRW* – Human Rights Watch
- *ICC* – International Criminal Court
- *ICRC* – International Committee of the Red Cross
- *ISIL* – Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
- *JSE* – United Nations-Arab League Joint Special Envoy to Syria
- *LAS* – League of Arab States
- *NATO* – North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- *OCHA* – The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- *OIC* – Organization of Islamic Cooperation
- *OHCHR* – Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- *OPCW* – Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
- *PACE* – Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- *SARC* – Syrian Arab Red Crescent
- *SASG* – Special Adviser to the Secretary-General
- *SES* – United Nations Special Envoy for Syria
- *SOC* – National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces
- *SOHR* – Syrian Observatory for Human Rights
- *SNC* – Syrian National Council
- *UN* – United Nations
- *UNESCO* – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- *UNGA* – United Nations General Assembly
- *UNHCR* – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- *UNSC* – United Nations Security Council
- *UNSG* – United Nations Secretary-General
- *UNSMIS* – United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria
- *US* – United States
2011:

Mar 16 – Syrian security forces arrest roughly 30 of 150 people gathered in Damascus’ Marjeh Square for the “Day of Dignity” protest, demanding the release of imprisoned relatives held as political prisoners.

Mar 20 – Protesting the 48-year long state of emergency law, crowds set fire to the headquarters of the ruling Baath Party in Deraa.

Mar 23 – Syrian forces kill six people in an attack on protesters in the Omari mosque complex in Deraa then later open fire on hundreds of youths marching in solidarity.

Mar 24 – Syrian President Bashar al-Assad orders the formation of a committee to raise living standards and study lifting the emergency law.

Mar 29 – Syrian government resigns amid the wave of unrest.

Apr 21 – President Assad issues a decree ending Syria’s 48-year state of emergency, simultaneously permitting public gatherings and controlled demonstrations.

Apr 29 – US President Obama signs Executive Order 13572 by which the US Treasury Department blocks the property the Syrian Intelligence Directorate, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and three Syrian officials considered to be “responsible” for human rights abuses.

Apr 29 – HRC adopts a resolution establishing a Fact Finding Mission to investigate alleged violations of international human rights law in Syria and to establish the facts and circumstances of such violations.

May 10 – EU imposes sanctions that include an arms embargo, a ban on sales of equipment which can be used in internal repression, and a travel ban on thirteen members of Bashar al-Assad’s inner circle for their part in the crackdown.

May 13 – OCHCR says that NGO reports suggest the number of deaths since the start of the protests to be between 700-850.

May 18 – President Obama signs Executive Order 13573 by which the US Treasury Department blocks the property of Assad and six other Syrian senior officials considered to be “responsible” for continuing escalation of violence.

May 23 – EU adds Bashar al-Assad and nine other senior members of the Syrian government to the list of persons subject to restrictive measures.

June 2 – In a press release, SASGs on the Prevention of Genocide, Francis Deng, and on the Responsibility to Protect, Edward Luck, express their grave concern at the “increasing loss of life in Syria as a result of the continued violent suppression of anti-government protests” and remind the Syrian Government of its responsibility to protect its population.
July 8 – Hundreds of thousands rally in Hama calling for end to Assad regime, with support from two visiting senior foreign envoys (U.S. ambassador Robert Ford and French ambassador Eric Chevallier).

July 10 – Opposition groups boycott “national dialogue conference” with Syrian government, vowing to refuse negotiations until Assad ends violence.

July 16 – From Istanbul, Syrian opposition groups elect a 25-member National Salvation Council to challenge Assad.

July 21 – In a press release, Special Advisers Francis Deng and Edward Luck express their alarm at the growing reports of human rights violations by Syrian security forces, the scale and gravity of which may amount to “crimes against humanity,” calling on the Government to refrain from the use of force and allow humanitarian access and the HRC-mandated Fact Finding Mission to complete their work.

Aug 3 – UNSC issues a presidential statement expressing its grave concern at the deteriorating situation in Syria, calling for Syrian authorities to fully comply with their obligations under international law, to cease the use of force and act with the utmost restraint, to allow access for international humanitarian agencies and cooperate with the OHCHR.

Aug 6 – In a statement, monarchies from the GCC appealed for an immediate end to the violence and bloodshed at the hands of the Syrian government.

Aug 7 – LAS releases its first statement strongly condemning the violence in Syria.

Aug 7 – Saudi Arabia recalls its ambassador from Syria in protest against Assad’s deadly crackdown, calling the violence “unacceptable.” Hours later, Kuwait and Bahrain follow suit, recalling their envoys.

Aug 9 – Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu meets with Assad for over six hours to discuss “concrete steps” to end violence.

Aug 17 – During a telephone conversation, Assad tells the UNSG that the military operations against the protesters have ended, but consents to the UNSG’s demand that a UN team has access to all areas affected by violence to carry out an independent inquiry. The UN withdraws extraneous staff from Syria, and the Tunisian government recalls its ambassador to Damascus for consultations.

Aug 17 – President Obama signs Executive Order 13582 by which the US Treasury Department blocks the property the Government of Syria and prohibits certain US transactions with respect to Syria.

Aug 18 – UN says it is possible that High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, will suggest that Assad be referred to the ICC.

Aug 18 – President Obama, joined by six other world leaders, calls for Assad to step down.
Aug 22-23 – HRC holds a special 17th session to address the situation of human rights in Syria and concludes with adoption of resolution that calls for creation of fact-finding mission by the OHCHR, despite opposition from Cuba, Russia and China.

Aug 27 – Arab Foreign Ministers tell Syria to halt its violent repression "before it's too late." The LAS creates a 13-point document outlining proposals to end the crackdown, including that al-Assad hold elections in three years, move towards a pluralistic government and free political prisoners.

Aug 30 – Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative, releases a statement expressing concern and condemnation at the violence perpetrated against protestors by the Syrian regime.

Aug 31 – Amnesty International releases a report (“Deadly Detentions”) detailing high number of suspicious deaths occurring in Syrian custody and accusing the Syrian government of carrying out “crimes against humanity.”

Sept 2 – EU imposes a Syrian oil embargo and travel ban – contractual obligations end and embargo goes into complete force on November 15.

Sept 6 – Norway announces it will match EU sanctions.

Sept 8 - President of the UNGA, Joseph Deiss, says in press conference that he is pleased with the moral strength of the UN having put into practice the principle of R2P in Libya, and should reflect on its application there in considering the situation in Syria.

Sept 8 – In a surprising statement, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran voices criticism of Assad’s crackdown and calls for Syria to dialogue rather than use force against its population.

Sept 10 – LAS Secretary-General Nabil Elaraby meets with Assad to present his 13-point document and reports to have “reached an agreement” with Assad regarding steps for reform.

Sept 12 – UNGA President Deiss asks the UN to act more decisively in response to “[outrages] of human dignity and the suffering of peoples” in the future, suggesting that in unstable situations in the Middle East, like that in Syria, the UN has no right to remain indifferent.

Sept 12 – HRC appoints three high-level experts to an independent CoI to investigate alleged violations of international human rights law in Syria and to determine facts and circumstances surrounding alleged abuses; the findings will be available no later than end of November.

Sept 12 – In an opening statement to the 18th Session of the HRC, High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, marks the death toll in Syria at 2,600 according to “reliable sources on the ground” and encourages the use of restraint by governments in times of political turmoil by acting in accordance with human rights principles and rule of law.

Sept 12 – Switzerland widens sanctions against Assad’s regime, including 19 individuals 8 institutions.

Sept 12 – Russia rejects Western calls for wider sanctions and Senators from Russia’s upper house announce they will visit Syria to foster dialogue and prevent international interference. Russian
President Medvedev said Russia may back “a variety of approaches” as long as measures target those on both sides of the conflict, rather than measures based on a unilateral condemnation of the Syrian government.

Sept 13 – HRC holds panel discussion on promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protest, reiterating that “States had the obligation to refrain from committing violations including through the use of excessive force; to protect individuals exercising their rights from abuses committed by state actors; and to take positive measures to prevent violations.”

Sept 13 – Arab foreign ministers call for Syrian leadership to take urgent steps to halt violence, calling the situation “very serious;” one that requires “immediate change.”

Sept 14 – Arab and international rights groups suggest that the LAS should suspend Syria’s membership.

Sept 15 – Syrian opposition activists meeting in Istanbul announce the members of a Syrian National Council (SNC) which will aim to coordinate the opposition's policies against the Syrian leadership; members are drawn from Syria's various political, religious and ethnic groups.

Sept 15 – Europe’s Parliament demands an immediate halt to crackdowns, for Assad and his regime to immediately relinquish power and for a transparent investigation into all alleged abuses. MEPs urge Russia and China to condemn the lethal use of force and impose sanctions, as EP President, Jerzy Buzek, says, “We Europeans must assume our responsibility to protect civilians and our responsibility to protect democracy.”

Sept 19 – HRC holds an interactive dialogue on the Situation of Human Rights in Syria and Sudan

Sept 20 – An advisor to the Iraqi Prime Minister stated that in a message to President Assad, the Iraqi government suggested he resign, saying the Iraqi government is “against the one-party rule and the dictatorship that hasn’t allowed for the freedom of expression.”

Sept 21 – In his speech to the UNGA, President Obama says there is “no excuse for inaction” in Syria and called upon the UNSC to sanction the regime.

Sept 23 – In a Briefing Note, Spokesperson for the OHCHR expresses concern over the “increasingly brutal crackdown,” urges the Syrian authorities to end the violence, and reiterates the need for the UNSC to refer the situation to the ICC.

Sept 23 – EU adopts additional sanctions against Syria, including “an investment ban in the Syrian oil sector,” while forecasting the “prohibition on the delivery of banknotes to the Syrian Central Bank” and more individuals added to the travel ban and asset freeze list.

Sept 23 – Switzerland announces the adoption of an embargo on the import, sales and transport of Syrian oil and oil products.

Sept 25 – CoI begins the preliminary consultations of its inquiry in Geneva.
Sept 23 – Amnesty International reports that the number of deaths recorded in Syrian custody is now 103 (15 new since publishing “Deadly Detention” on 31 August), with many bodies showing signs of torture.

Sept 26 – US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton discusses increasing pressure on Syrian regime with Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi, with Clinton urging China to support a UNSC resolution. This followed Yang Jiechi’s speech at the general debate of the 66th UNGA session, in which he called for the Syrian regime to “exercise restraint.”

Sept 27 – Syrian Revolution General Commission asks the UNSC to “take all necessary measures to protect the civilian population under threat of attack including the installation, as a matter of urgency, of a UN monitoring mission.”

Sept 27 – Addressing the European Parliament, Catherine Ashton says, “We are pursuing a double track approach: by stepping up measures designed to undermine the regime’s support and by achieving a further isolation of the Syrian leadership.”

Oct 3 – Turkey’s Prime Minister announces that sanctions against Syria are underway.

Oct 3 – Amnesty International released a report detailing over 30 cases of harassment, abuse and intimidation of protestors of the Syrian regime in over 8 countries by embassy officials and others acting on behalf of the regime. Amnesty says the foreign activists have been systematically monitored.

Oct 4 – Russia and China veto a UNSC resolution that would condemn the violence in Syria and threatening sanctions.

Oct 4 – PACE drafts Resolution 1831 in which it condemns and urges immediate cessation of the use of force against civilians in Syria, calls for member states to impose sanctions and for the ICC to ensure the investigation and punishment of all crimes.

Oct 6 – Germany summons Syrian ambassador Bashar Ja’afari to Berlin after his disparaging comments following the UNSC veto on the draft resolution, also stating that any spying and exerting of pressure on members of Syrian opposition in German is “in no way acceptable.”

Oct 6 – OHCHR office puts the Syrian death toll at over 2,900.

Oct 6 – Avaaz recorded 11,006 names of those arrested and detained in Syria.

Oct 6 – Turkey prepares the imposition of sanctions against Syria despite the blocking of UN action by Russian and Chinese vetoes.

Oct 7 – HRC discusses the situation in Syria, while a coalition of activists and rights groups send a draft resolution to all UN member states calling for the creation of a special UN monitor of human rights in Syria.
**Oct 11** – Syria’s most senior Sunni Muslim cleric warns Europe and the US against military measure, saying “we will prepare our suicide bombers who are already with you if you bombard Syria or Lebanon. From today an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.”

**Oct 11** – China’s Foreign Ministry urges Syria to speed the reform process saying, “We believe the Syrian government should respond to people’s reasonable expectations and appeals, and resolve the issues through dialogue and consultations.”

**Oct 10** – Iraq’s Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki tells Reuters, “Certainly, we support the idea of ending one-party rule, rule by one person [in Syria],” and that Iraq supports the idea of “states that come from the people, states and governments appointed by the people, not those appointed behind closed doors.”

**Oct 10** – A group of Syrians opposed to Assad created the Syrian Alliance for Democracy, a collection of about 60 technocrats who hope to assist the opposition in terms of expertise

**Oct 12** – SNC says Western nations have not been “aggressive” enough in pressuring Russia to support UNSC action on Syria and calls for a conference that brings together the main stakeholders in the conflict.

**Oct 13** – EU adds the Commercial Bank of Syria to its sanctions list, bringing the total to 19 entities.

**Oct 13** – UK Foreign Secretary William Hague warns the Syrian government that spying on and harassing citizens living in the UK is “unacceptable and will not be tolerated.” He also criticized Russia and China for siding with the “brutal regime rather than the people of Syria.”

**Oct 14** – OHCHR urges immediate international action as the official UN death toll in Syria hits over 3,000 (including at least 187 children), saying that the Government of Syria has “manifestly failed to protect its population.”

**Oct 15** – President Assad forms a 29-member committee to draft a new constitution within four months.

**Oct 16** – HRW issues a report encouraging the IBSA countries to take collective action towards ending the bloodshed in Syria.

**Oct 16** – Arab foreign ministers hold an emergency meeting in Cairo to discuss Syria’s suspension from the LAS, creating a committee to oversee the situation and giving Syria 15 days to enact a cease-fire.

**Oct 16** – LAS offers to host talks between the opposition and the Damascus leadership, but both sides resist; the SNC says it refuses to engage in talks while Assad’s military continued to storm cities and towns.

**Oct 17** – UNSG urges Assad to grant access to the CoI and end the violence, calling the situation “totally unacceptable.”
Oct 19 – In a UNGA meeting on human rights in the context of protest movements in the Middle East, delegates said:
- UK: the Government of Syria must immediately end all human rights violations
- US: expressed profound concern over reports from the fact finding mission
- Syria: suggested the country’s readiness to receive investigators from the HRC

Oct 19 – A report from Amnesty International on Arms Transfers to the Middle East calls for an immediate, comprehensive arms embargo on Syria and for referral of the situation to the ICC by the UNSC in response to crimes against humanity.

Oct 20 – UN calls on Syria to end its raids into Lebanon in search of opposition members and army deserters seeking refuge.

Oct 20 – SNC threatens to seek international intervention, expressing its determination to “bring down” the regime and accusing it of seeking to “militarize” the opposition movement.

Oct 20 – Syrian Central Bank governor suggests that Syria may switch to the Russian ruble for banking transactions should the EU ban Syria’s use of the euro.

Oct 21 – LAS announces that Syrian authorities have agreed to allow a delegation headed by Qatar to visit next week.

Oct 23 – US Senator John McCain said in a World Economic Forum meeting in Jordan, “Now that military operations in Libya are ending, there will be renewed focus on what practical military operations might be considered to protect civilian lives in Syria.”

Oct 23 – European Council reiterated that the Syrian people “must be able to define the future of their country without the fear of repression,” and Catherine Ashton said the EU will impose “further and more comprehensive measures” against Syria as long as the repression continues.

Oct 24 – Jordan’s King Abdullah expresses his “great concern,” given that no one within or outside of the region “knows how to tackle the Syria issue,” and that his attempts to initiate dialogue with Assad have been met with disinterest.

Oct 24 – US recalls to Washington its Ambassador in Syria, Robert Ford, due to “credible threats against his personal safety.”

Oct 25 – China announces it is sending an envoy to Syria from October 26 – 30, hoping to convince Syria to deliver on its reform pledges and respond to the people’s appeals.

Oct 26 – LAS delegation headed by Qatar meets with Syrian officials in Damascus to encourage Assad to end the bloodshed and implement reforms.

Oct 27 – EU Parliament passed a resolution condemning the killing of peaceful protesters in Syria, calling for the protection of Christian communities and supporting the emergence of organized Syrian democratic opposition forces.

Oct 27 – A report from HRW suggests that since Oct 16 at least 186 civilians and protestors have been killed and that the LAS should demand the Syrian government allows independent civilian monitors to observe the activity on the ground.

Oct 28 – LAS official says that in trying to foster dialogue in Syria, "frank and friendly" talks were held with Assad, with more planned, but no breakthrough has been reached.

Oct 28 – About 300 Sudanese Islamists demonstrated in Khartoum in solidarity with Syrian anti-regime protestors.

Oct 28 – FSA Commander claims that the number of anti-regime fighters totals over 10,000, with 18 “announced” battalions, and a number of other secret ones.

Oct 29 – UNSG condemns the “unacceptable” violence in Syria and calls for its immediate cessation.

Oct 30 – Arab diplomats meet with top Syrian officials in Qatar to work to stop the bloodshed. An opposition memo reportedly urges world leaders to “further isolate Syria, politically, diplomatically and economically.”

Nov 2 – Syrian government agrees to fully accept the LAS plan to end the nearly eight months of bloodshed. The plan stipulates the immediate withdrawal of military and security forces from the streets of Syria, the opening of the country to foreign reporters and independent monitors, and dialogue with the opposition.

Nov 3 – UNSG and Catherine Ashton welcome the agreement between Syria and the LAS but qualify their support with statements stressing the need for immediate implementation of the plan.

Nov 4 – Syrian government announces it will grant amnesty for those civilians who surrender weapons between November 5-12 in a concession to mark Eid al-Adha.

Nov 7 – LAS schedules an emergency meeting in Cairo for November 12 in response to Syria’s failure to implement the plan.

Nov 8 – UN reports the death toll in Syria to be over 3,500 despite the Government’s alleged full acceptance of the LAS plan.

Nov 8 – SNC declares Homs a “humanitarian disaster area,” asking for the OIC and the LAS to act “to stop the massacre.”

Nov 8 – British Foreign Minister William Hague calls for greater pressure on the Assad regime, saying that the UK would like to pass a UNSC resolution condemning the violence.
Nov 8 – Handicap International **condemns** Syria’s alleged use of anti-personnel land mines, urging it to sign the Mine Ban Treaty (Ottawa Treaty).

Nov 9 – During the **UNSC’s open debate on civilian protection**, Navi Pillay says there is a serious risk of the situation in Syria descending into an armed struggle; the US urges Syrian citizens not to surrender weapons to the government in response to Syria’s call to do so in exchange for amnesty; several countries express condemnation of the Assad regime; the US, Japan and France suggest the UNSC failed to protect civilians in not adopting a resolution condemning the violence.

Nov 10 – Treasury Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing visits officials in Beirut to underscore the need for Lebanon to “ensure a transparent and well-regulated financial sector” to prevent Syrian attempts to evade US and EU sanctions through Lebanese and Jordanian financial sectors.

Nov 10 – US lawmakers call for an investigation into the roles of Blue Coat Systems and NetApp Inc. in the internet and email surveillance systems that have been under construction in Syria since protests began.

Nov 11 – HRW releases a report based on over 110 interviews with victims and witnesses detailing violations by Syrian security forces.

Nov 12 – LAS votes to suspend Syria’s membership.

Nov 14 – King Abdullah of Jordan calls on Assad to step down for good, but expresses concern over the political conditions of post-Assad Syria.

Nov 14 – The Council of Europe reinforces the EU’s **restrictive measures**, suspending the disbursement of European Investment Bank loans and adding 18 additional persons to the asset freeze and travel ban list.

Nov 15 – Turkey threatens to cut off electricity to Syria if Assad “[stays] on this course [of violence].”

Nov 16 – Morocco withdraws its ambassador from Syria after its embassy is attacked by Syrian demonstrators who opposed Morocco’s support of Syria’s suspension from the LAS.

Nov 16 – LAS gives Damascus three days to implement the plan, threatening economic sanctions should Syria fail to comply.

Nov 17 – China’s Foreign Ministry spokesman suggests that China might support a draft resolution in the future, saying “It depends on whether these actions will help to resolve the tensions in Syria and facilitate the resolution of disputes through political dialogue.”

Nov 17 – FSA attacks a key army base (the Air Force Intelligence building) in the middle of the night outside Damascus, killing 6-20 soldiers, prompting retaliation by security forces.
Nov 22 – UNGA 3rd Committee approves by a vote of 122-13 a nonbinding resolution condemning the regime’s violence and calling on Syrian authorities to implement the LAS peace plan “without further delay.”

Nov 27 – LAS imposes further sanctions that included banning senior Syrian officials from traveling to other Arab countries, freezing Syrian assets in Arab countries and halting financial operations with major Syrian banks.

Nov 28 – HRC releases the report of the CoI detailing the regime’s excessive use of force against the civilian population, including summary executions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and sexual violence.

Nov 28 – Amnesty International urges states to act on the UN report confirming Syria’s perpetration of crimes against humanity.

Nov 30 – OIC holds an emergency meeting as a “last chance” to resolve the crisis “within the broader Islamic family.”

Nov 30 – Turkey says that Assad’s government has come to “the end of the road” and announces economic sanctions that include the suspension of all financial dealings with Syria and the freezing of Assad’s assets.

Dec 1 – UN “conservatively” estimates the Syrian death toll to be over 4,000, saying the situation is close to a civil war.

Dec 2 – UN Human Rights Chief Navi Pillay urges the international community to take “urgent and effective measures to protect the Syrian people” and refer the regime’s “crimes against humanity” to the ICC.

Dec 3 – LAS orders a freeze on the assets of 19 Syrian officials, a ban on their travel and a reduction in flights to Syria if the government refuses to admit international monitors, release political prisoners and end its crackdown on protests.

Dec 5 – Syria agrees to allow an Arab mission of military and civilian observers providing the LAS revokes economic sanctions and Syria’s suspension from the League.

Dec 6 – US announces it will send Ambassador Ford back to Damascus in order to advance US policy goals and serve as a witness to the ongoing violence.

Dec 8 – Turkey announces its intention to use alternative to Syrian routes to transport its goods to the Middle East and Gulf countries, and to charge a 30% tax of goods from Syria.

Dec 12 – OHCHR reports that the death toll in Syria now exceeds 5,000.

Dec 14 – Turkey announces it will cancel tax cuts on industrial goods imported from Syria, which will cost Turkey $8 billion per year.

Dec 15 – Russia introduces a draft resolution on the Syria situation to the UNSC.
Dec 16 – SNC holds its first congress in Tunisia to discuss its policy and how to protect civilians and prepare a transition plan for post-Assad Syria.

Dec 19 – Syria agrees to allow an observer mission into the country to monitor compliance with the LAS peace agreement.

Dec 20 – US releases a statement calling for the resignation of Assad, who has lost all credibility after repeated, flagrant violations of commitments to end the violence.

Dec 21 – SNC releases a statement condemning “the criminal acts and the massacres committed by the criminal regime in Idlib over the past 2 days,” and says the regime is “taking advantage of its signing of the Arab initiative protocol to intensify the killing and destruction to an unprecedented level.”

Dec 23 – UNSG reiterates his grave concern at the escalating violence, welcomes the deployment of the observer team, and urges the Syrian Government to “fully and speedily” implement the LAS peace plan.

Dec 26 – LAS observer team arrives in Syria in accordance with the peace plan, and one member reports that “what’s happening in Syria is genocide.”
2012:

Jan 2 – The speaker of the Arab Parliament calls Syria’s actions “a clear violation of the LAS protocol which is to protect the Syrian people.”

Jan 3 – FSA Colonel Riad al-Asaad announces the opposition’s intention to escalate attack operations within a week if the monitors are “still not serious” by that time.

Jan 3 – LAS calls an emergency meeting schedule for January 7 in Cairo to discuss whether to remove the observers in the wake of reports of continued regime violence.

Jan 4 – LAS announces it will add 50 monitors in Syria.

Jan 4 – The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reports that the Syrian government has been deceiving the monitors by “changing neighborhood signs to confuse [them], taking them to areas loyal to the regime and painting army vehicles to look like those of the police — in order to claim the army has pulled out of flashpoint regions.”

Jan 5 – A senior Syrian official, the head inspector of the country’s defense ministry, defects to the opposition movement, claiming the Assad regime has been lying about the existence of armed gangs and has spent $40 million on loyalist militias to crush demonstrations.

Jan 6 – The UNSG issues a statement condemning the bombing in Damascus, expressing his grave concern, and demanding the cessation of violence.

Jan 6 – In a press release, Amnesty International urged that during the Cairo meeting, the LAS should review ongoing allegations of serious human rights abuses despite the presence of monitors.

Jan 8 – Sudanese president Omar al-Bashir urges Assad to embrace reforms, saying the Sudanese position “chimes with that of the Arab League.”

Jan 8 – At the progress meeting in Cairo, the LAS admits that the Syrian government has only partially followed through with its obligations under the peace deal, and the League will decide what to do following the observer mission’s full report, due on Jan 19.

Jan 10 – One former LAS observer quits over the mission’s ineffectiveness, calling it a “farce” and describing Syria as a “humanitarian disaster.”

Jan 11 – Secretary-General of the LAS Nabil Elaraby expresses his growing doubts of the monitoring mission’s effectiveness and says that the Syrian government is not complying.

Jan 11 – The SNC accuses the regime of “liquidating” journalists in order to hush reports of the situation within the country.

Jan 12 – Heads of the FSA and SNC meet to “extensively discuss the situation on the ground and the organizational capacity of the FSA,” agreeing to formulate a detailed plan that includes “the reorganization of FSA units and brigades, and the creation of a format to accommodate within FSA
ranks additional officers and soldiers, especially senior military officials, who side with the
revolution.”

Jan 13 – France orders a probe into the death of a French journalist in Syria, implicating the Syrian
government.

Jan 14 – A Russian ship carrying a cargo of ammunition arrives in Syria after claiming its
destination was Turkey.

Jan 15 – The Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, proposes Arab military
intervention in Syria.

Jan 17 – Chief of the FSA, Col. Riad al-Assad, asks for UNSC involvement and for international
intervention to replace the “failing” Arab observer mission.

Jan 18 – President Obama condemns the “unacceptable violence” and vows to scale up the
international pressure on the Assad regime.

Jan 21 – The US threatens to close its embassy in Damascus due to security concerns within the
region and requests the government of Syria take additional protective security measures.

Jan 23 – The EU tightens sanctions, adding 22 individuals and 8 entities to the asset freeze and
travel ban list, and adopted 10 conclusions on the situation in Syria, including strong condemnation
of the violence and encouragement for a UNSC response.

Jan 24 – Qatari Prime Minister announces Qatar’s intention to take the Arab position on the Syrian
crisis to the UNSC.

Jan 25 – Arab observers from GCC states amounting to about 50 individuals leave the mission,
saying they are “certain the bloodshed and killing of innocents would continue.”

Jan 25 – Syria agrees to extend the observer mission for one month, through February 23.

Jan 25 – As momentum for UNSC response builds, France, Britain and Germany begin working on
a draft resolution, while Russia announces it will not support any action that includes sanctions or
military intervention in Syria.

Jan 25 – In response to Assad’s “affront to the dignity and human rights of the Syrian people,”
group of UNESCO member states begin mounting a campaign to oust Syria from the Committee on
Conventions and Recommendations, which deals with human rights issues.

Jan 26 – Canada unveils a fifth round of sanctions against four banks, three oil companies, and 22
people linked with the “reprehensible” Assad regime.

Jan 26 – Secretary-General of the LAS and Qatari Prime Minister announce their intention to
submit a plan calling for Assad to step down to the UNSC.
Jan 27 – Ambassador Rice urges the UNSC to support the LAS plan to mediate a political transition in Syria, saying it is “long past time” that the Council passed a resolution.

Jan 27 – SNC announces that it is prepared to provide money and non-offensive equipment to the FSA.

Jan 28 – LAS suspends the observer mission due to “critical” deteriorating conditions and rising violence in Syria.

Jan 30 – UNSG begins deliberations on the draft resolutions tabled by Morocco, which condemns the violence, endorses the LAS plan, and calls upon Assad to honor his commitments.

Feb 1 – In a statement, EU High Representative Catherine Ashton says she is “appalled” by the Assad regime’s “campaign of repression against the Syrian people,” and calls for strong UN action.

Feb 2 – SNC calls on Syrian expatriates to stage protests at Russian embassies to “exert pressure” on Russia at the UNSC to adopt a resolution.

Feb 2 – Gulfsands Petroleum announces it is “actively evaluating” new opportunities outside of Syria after halting production to comply with the intent of EU sanctions.

Feb 2 – Jordan announces the withdrawal of its monitors from the currently suspended LAS monitoring mission.

Feb 3 – HRW releases a report detailing the torture of children at the hands of the Assad regime.

Feb 4 – Russia and China veto a UNSC resolution that would have condemned the violence and called for a “Syrian-led political transition to a democratic, plural political system.”

Feb 5 – Secretary of State Clinton calls for a coalition of “friends of a democratic Syria” to take action given the failure of the UNSC to adopt a resolution.

Feb 6 – UN announces it has closed its embassy in Syria and pulled out all American diplomats.

Feb 6 – The Small 5 Group (Costa Rica, Jordan, Singapore, Switzerland and Liechtenstein) release a statement expressing concern at the vetoes cast by Russia and China and urge all members of the UNSC to refrain from the use of the veto in mass atrocity situations.

Feb 7 – France, Britain and Italy recall their ambassadors from Syria for consultations. The Gulf Arab states announce they are recalling their ambassadors from Syria and expelling Syrian diplomats.

Feb 8 – EU announces preparation for a new round of sanctions that are to include a ban on flights to and from Syria, and a ban on the importation of precious minerals and phosphates.

Feb 8 – UNSG says the “appalling brutality […] is a grim harbinger of worse to come” in Syria and that the LAS intends to revive the monitoring mission.
Feb 9 – The US State Department announces that its top Middle East envoy has been dispatched to Morocco, France and Bahrain to begin organizing the “Friends of Syria” meeting set for February 24.

Feb 10 – UN human rights office says that Syrian officials suspected of involvement in crimes against humanity should be sent to the ICC.

Feb 13 – At the UNGA meeting on Syria, Navi Pillay says that the failure of the UNSC to agree on collective action has emboldened the regime, which has committed crimes against humanity since March 2011.

Feb 14 – France sets up a humanitarian fund for aid agencies looking to help the Syrian people and plans to propose something similar at the international level.

Feb 14 – UNGA adopts a nonbinding resolution condemning the regime’s violence and demanding that the government implement all provisions of the LAS plan.

Feb 15 – Syria announces that February 26 will be the date for a referendum on the new constitution.

Feb 15 – Amnesty International reports the death of at least 377 civilians since the Syrian government began shelling neighborhoods in Homs.

Feb 16 – By an overwhelming majority (137 in favor, 12 against, 17 abstentions), the UNGA adopts a resolution on the situation in Syria that strongly condemns the continued “widespread and systematic” human rights violations by the Syrian authorities and demands an immediate cessation of violence.

Feb 19 – US Senators John McCain and Lindsey Graham advocate for indirectly arming the Syrian opposition, saying “people that are being massacred deserve to have the ability to defend themselves.”

Feb 19 – Egypt announces that its ambassador to Syria has been recalled in a move to further isolate the Assad regime.

Feb 20 – Two Iranian naval ships dock at Syria’s port of Tartus as per a bilateral agreement aimed at training the Syrian navy, and as a demonstration of Iran’s military might, according to Iran’s Defense Minister, Ahmad Vahidi.

Feb 21 – Ambassador Susan Rice releases a statement condemning the Assad regime and his “thugs” for the arbitrary imprisonment of the director of the Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression, along with “thousands more,” calling for their immediate release.

Feb 21 – Walid Jumblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, calls Assad’s reform program a “theatrical play,” saying Syria’s allies knowingly support a mock referendum while providing military, intelligence and security support to the regime “as they repeat their rejection of foreign intervention.”
Feb 22 – President of the ICRC meets with a delegation from the SNC in response to the ongoing bombardment of Baba Amr, Homs, to assess all relief and humanitarian aid capabilities and options that might be provided to residents there.

Feb 22 – CoI releases an updated report, calling for an end to gross violations of human rights and related impunity, and finding that the government has manifestly failed in its responsibility to protect its people.

Feb 23 – UNSG appoints Kofi Annan as the UN-LAS Special Envoy (JSE) on Syria, tasked with diplomatically engaging with relevant interlocutors within and outside Syria to bring an end to all violence and promote a peaceful solution to the crisis.

Feb 24 – The “Friends of Syria” group that includes top diplomats from over 60 nations meets in Tunisia to raise pressure on the Assad regime. The outcome resolution demands an end to the bloodshed and the opening of humanitarian access within 48 hours.

Feb 25 – ICRC and the SARC begin negotiations with the Syrian government and opposition groups in Homs to arrange a 2-hr ceasefire that will enable humanitarian access to those in Baba Amr.

Feb 26 – 20 members of the SNC form a splinter organization, the Syrian Patriotic Group, “to back the national effort to bring down the regime with all available resistance means including supporting the Free Syrian Army.”

Feb 27 – EU imposes new sanctions, freezing the assets of 7 Syrian government officials and the Syrian central bank, and banning cargo flights from the EU, as well as the purchase of gold, precious metals, and diamonds.

Feb 28 – UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, says that “well over 7,500 people” have been killed in the conflict.

Feb 29 – Tunisia says it will offer political asylum to Assad if such a proposal would stop the bloodshed.

Feb 29 – Valerie Amos, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, says that regime has denied her request to enter the country in order to meet with Syrian officials to discuss the humanitarian situation and negotiate humanitarian access to the people affected by the violence.

Feb 29 – HRC adopts a resolution strongly condemning the widespread and systematic violations of human rights by the Syrian authorities, expresses concern at the humanitarian situation, and demands an immediate cessation of violence.

Mar 1 – UK announces the suspension of operations of its embassy in Syria and the withdrawal of all diplomats.

Mar 1 – The Elders release a statement calling for an immediate halt to the violence in Syria and urging a “humanitarian pause” to permit access to those in need.
Mar 1 – UNSC issues a press statement calling upon Syria to “allow immediate, full and unimpeded access of humanitarian personnel to all populations in need of […] humanitarian assistance.”

Mar 2 – France announces it will close its embassy in Syria, calling the situation “unacceptable.”

Mar 3 – In an interview with Al-Jazeera, UN human rights chief Navi Pillay cautions against arming the Syrian opposition for fear of escalating the violence, and that the primary concern of her office is the protection of Syrian civilians, given the international community’s Responsibility to Protect.

Mar 4 – LAS, OIC and The Humanitarian Forum hold the 2nd Humanitarian Conference on Syria, with 110 participants from over 70 NGOs and UN agencies discussing the humanitarian situation in Syria and its impact on neighboring countries.

Mar 5 – Canada announces it will close its embassy in Syria due to the ongoing violence and “deteriorating situation.”

Mar 6 – US Department of State issues a travel warning to US citizens against traveling to Syria and recommending that any US citizens in Syria depart immediately “while it is still possible.”

Mar 6 – The UN Special Rapporteur on Torture says that torture of inmates in detention centers in Syria is “increasing in gravity,” and the UNSC “has a responsibility to protect the Syria people from these very serious crimes.”

Mar 7 – At its executive board meeting, UNESCO condemns Syria for “the continued widespread and systematic violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms,” but does not expel the country from its human rights committee, despite calls to do so by a number of Western and Arab countries.

Mar 7 – ICRC and SARC enter Baba Amr, Homs to provide humanitarian aid and report that the vast majority of residents had fled their homes due to an ongoing assault by the Syrian security forces on the neighborhood.

Mar 7 – A Chinese envoy, the former ambassador to Damascus, arrives in Syria to meet with Syrian officials and press for a halt to violence, proposing a six-point peace plan.

Mar 8 – Syria’s Deputy Oil Minister announces his defection from the government, “joining the dignified people’s revolution,” and speaks out against the regime’s brutality.

Mar 9 – After a two-day visit to Syria, Valerie Amos says she was “horrified by the destruction” she saw, but that the Syrian government has agreed to a preliminary humanitarian assessment mission to areas where Syrians urgently need assistance.

Mar 9 – Japan announces it will toughen sanctions against the Syrian regime, adding the names of two individuals with close ties to Assad and four organizations to those subject to asset freezes.
Mar 10 – Kofi Annan arrives in Syria to begin his mission as the JSE and advance his peace initiative.

Mar 12 – In an open letter to the UNSC, a group of 43 scholars and former statesmen urge the Council to revoke Assad’s “license to kill.”

Mar 12 – The head of the CoI on Syria tells the HRC that civilians continue to bear the brunt of the violence, while the 500-plus deaths of children is a “tragic indicator of the human rights conditions.

Mar 12 – Addressing the UNSC during a debate on the Middle East, UK ambassador William Hague says that the UNSC has “failed in its responsibilities towards the Syrian people,” and must now show unity and leadership by fully supporting the efforts of the LAS.

Mar 13 – UNHCR reports the displacement of 230,000 Syrians from their homes since the violence began and appoints a Regional Refugee Coordinator for the 30,000 of those who have fled to neighboring countries.

Mar 13 - The Muslim Brotherhood and its political arm, the Islamic Action Front, release a joint statement, saying that genocide is being committed in Syria, international hesitation has allowed Assad to continue committing crimes, and “the Syrian people are being betrayed by Arabs, Muslims and the entire world.”

Mar 14 – Italy closes its embassy in Syria and recalls all staff, affirming “the strongest condemnation of the unacceptable violence by the Syrian regime against its own citizen.”

MARCH 15 – The conflict enters its second year.

Mar 15 – UNSG releases a statement marking the one-year anniversary of the Syrian uprising, noting over 8,000 deaths calling for unified international support to halt the bloodshed.

Mar 15 – Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and the Netherlands announce the closure of their embassies and withdrawal of diplomats from Damascus.

Mar 15 – US Department of State says it is “pursuing every avenue to get humanitarian relief into Syria and pledging $12 million in assistance.

Mar 15 – EU High Representative Catherine Ashton releases a statement condemning continued repression and violence in Syria and expressing her full support for the mission of the JSE.

Mar 15 – In an open letter, HRW asks the LAS to adopt a resolution that calls upon its member-states to provide at least temporary asylum to Syrian civilians fleeing conflict and persecution.

Mar 16 – Turkey says consular services at its Damascus embassy will stop on March 22 and urged its citizens to leave Syria, saying developments pose “serious security risks.”

Mar 16 – Four of the GCC states (the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Kuwait) announce the closure of their embassies in Syria to demonstrate their rejection of “the Syrian regime’s
continuing killing and tormenting of the unarmed Syrian people its insistence on the military option and ignoring all efforts for a way out of the tragic situation lived by the brotherly Syrian people.”

**Mar 18** – Sent by the JSE, a technical team which includes 5 people with political, peacekeeping, and mediation expertise, arrives in Damascus to discuss Annan’s proposal to deploy international monitors.

**Mar 19** – President of the ICRC meets with Russia’s Foreign Minister, Sergey Lavrov, in Moscow to push Russia to support daily breaks in fighting for humanitarian access, saying the situation will likely deteriorate and there is a need for urgent measures.

**Mar 20** – UNSG stresses the need for the international community to “speak with one voice,” as “the situation in Syria has become now the most troubling and most concerning issue for the international community and for humanity.”

**Mar 20** – Asma Assad, wife of President Bashar, is added to the EU’s list of sanctioned individuals subject to asset freezes.

**Mar 20** – In a public letter to the SNC, HRW describes serious human rights abuses committed by members of the Syrian armed opposition and calls on opposition leaders to condemn and forbid such abuses.

**Mar 21** – Japan closes its embassy in Syria, temporarily suspending diplomatic activities, citing deteriorating security conditions

**Mar 21** – UNSC adopts a presidential statement expressing its gravest concern at the deteriorating situation in Syria and fully supporting the mission of JSE Kofi Annan. A UNSC press statement condemns the terrorist attacks in Damascus on March 17, and Aleppo, on March 19.

**Mar 22** – EU allocates €7 million in humanitarian aid to Syria “to finance life-saving assistance to those who have been wounded or forced to flee the ongoing violence.”

**Mar 22** – FSA announces the formation of a Military Council to coordinate operations in Damascus and invites “noble offices still in the ranks of Bashar’s army” to join the FSA.

**Mar 23** – HRC adopts a resolution condemning the violence, urging the Syrian government to meet its responsibility to protect its population, calling upon the government to implement the LAS peace plan, and extending the mandate of the independent CoI.

**Mar 24** – A top defector from the Syrian military announces the unification of all military councils and battalions inside Syria under the leadership of the FSA, commanded by Col. Riad al-Asaad.

**Mar 26** – Over growing security concerns, Norway shuts its embassy in Damascus “until further notice,” but says a Norwegian diplomat will stay in Syria, working from the Danish embassy to “uphold contacts with political actors and report about the development.”
Mar 27 – Briefing the UNSC, UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Robert Serry, says that “credible estimates put the total death toll since the beginning of the uprising one year ago to more than 9,000.”

Mar 29 – HRW urges the LAS to implement sanctions against Syria to which it agreed last November.

Mar 29 – Britain doubles its aid to Syrian opposition groups, pledging £500,000 worth of training for activists and citizen journalists, secure phones for better communication, and assistance to civil society groups for gathering evidence of atrocities.

Mar 30 – Canada imposes its seventh round of sanctions against Syria, targeting Asma Assad and banning Canadian dealings with Syrian Petroleum Co.

Mar 30 – US Treasury Department adds Syria’s defense minister, army chief of staff, and head of presidential security to the sanctions list.

Mar 30 – A joint UN-OIC assessment carried out by technical staff from 8 UN agencies finds that one million Syrians are in need of humanitarian assistance.

Apr 1 – “Friends of Syria” meet in Turkey and collectively pledge over $100 million dollars for non-lethal material support to the opposition, including the payment of salaries to the FSA, and commit to working on “additional and appropriate measures with a view to the protection of the Syrian people.”

Apr 2 – US announces that it will work with international partners to establish an Accountability Clearinghouse that will support Syrian and international efforts to promote accountability.

Apr 2 – President of the ICRC heads to Damascus for talks aimed at expanding aid operations and gaining access to all detainees, saying he is “determined to see the ICRC and SARC expand their presence, range and scope of activities to address the needs of vulnerable people.”

Apr 3 – Amnesty International reports that it has received 232 names of individuals reported to have been killed, including 17 children, since Syria agreed to the six-point plan on 27 March.

Apr 5 – UNSG addresses the UNGA, explaining the deterioration of the situation on the ground and urging full support for the mission of Kofi Annan.

Apr 7 – OIC says it is preparing humanitarian aid worth up to $70 million to help roughly 1 million Syrians affected by the violence.

Apr 8 – JSE Annan stresses that the escalation of violence in Syria is “unacceptable” and calls on the Syrian government to fully implement the peace plan.

Apr 8 – Lebanon’s Higher Islamic Council condemns Syria’s “crimes against humanity” and calls upon the international community and the LAS to rescue the Syrian people “before it is too late.”
Apr 9 – HRW documents the summary execution of over 100 civilians by the Syrian security forces.

Apr 10 – A joint statement on the situation in Syria by the PACE and the Chair of its Political Affairs Committee puts the death toll at over 11,000 people, calls the Assad regime illegitimate, and says that “the only solution rests with the international community and domestic opposition.”

Apr 11 – Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan raises the possibility of calling on NATO to protect Turkey’s border against incursions by Syrian forces.

Apr 12 – UNSG says that the onus is on the Syrian government to keep its promise to observe the ceasefire which went into effect earlier in the day.

Apr 14 – UNSC unanimously adopts Resolution 2024, authorizing an advance team of 30 unarmed observers to report on the implementation of the ceasefire.

Apr 14 – SNC releases a statement welcoming the adoption of UNSC Resolution 2024 and expressing its commitment to the success and full implementation of Annan’s plan.

Apr 15 – UNSG voices serious concern over the shelling of Homs and demands that all parties abide by the terms of the ceasefire.

Apr 15 – A preliminary team of 6 UN ceasefire monitors arrives in Syria for discussions with Syrian officials over the details of the full monitoring mission.

Apr 16 – Members of the CoI report that despite the ceasefire agreement, they continue to receive reports of human rights abuses committed by government and anti-government forces.

Apr 17 – The wives of the German and UK Ambassadors to the UN release a video and a petition which appeals to Asma Assad to stand up to her husband, support her people and speak out against the violence in Syria.

Apr 19 – Eight US Senators propose a resolution condemning the Syrian government for ongoing crimes against humanity and its failure to uphold its Responsibility to Protect, and calling on President Obama to take action to hold accountable those responsible.

Apr 19 – “Friends of Syria” meet in Paris, backing the Annan plan and UN monitoring mission as the “last hope” to resolve the Syrian crisis, while endorsing “other options” should the plan fail to quell the violence.

Apr 20 – UN office in Geneva hosts a Syria Humanitarian Forum, attended by directors of humanitarian aid departments of various countries, to provide a platform for entities involved in humanitarian response to the Syria crisis to share information, mobilize funding, and support effective and timely dispersal of aid.

Apr 21 – UNSC unanimously adopts Resolution 2043, which authorizes the United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS), a 90-day deployment of 300 unarmed observers to monitor the ceasefire and full implementation of the Annan plan.
Apr 23 – EU imposes another round of sanctions on Syria which bans the sale of luxury goods to Syria and restricts the export to Syria any equipment, goods and technology “that can be used for internal repression or for making and maintaining such products.”

Apr 23 – SNC releases a statement welcoming the adoption of Resolution 2043.

Apr 24 – WFP announces that it aims to deliver food aid to 500,000 people in Syria in the coming weeks.

Apr 24 – UNSC urges the rapid deployment of UNMIS observers and the implementation of the six-point peace plan.

Apr 24 – A report released by the PACE condemns the widespread, systematic and gross human rights violations amounting to crimes against humanity committed by Syrian mi

Apr 26 – The PACE condemns the “widespread, systematic and gross human rights violations amounting to crimes against humanity committed by the Syrian military and security forces,” and urges all Council of Europe member states to “deploy every effort to ensure respect of the agreed peace plan,” including EU sanctions.

Apr 26 – In a statement, the UNSG expresses his alarm over reports of continued violence in Syria and condemns the continued repression of civilians and violence, calling the situation “unacceptable.”

Apr 27 – UNSG appoints Major General Robert Mood as Chief Military Observer and Head of Mission of UNMIS.

Apr 28 – SNC says the Assad regime continues to violate provisions of the Annan plan and calls upon the international community to take a firm stance against it.

Apr 30 – UNSG condemns two bomb attacks which occurred in Idlib and Damascus, Syria, and calls for armed violence in all forms by all parties to cease immediately.

May 1 – President Obama signs Executive Order 13608, prohibiting certain transactions with and suspending entry into the US of foreign sanctions evaders with respect to Iran and Syria.

May 1 – The Under-Secretary for Peacekeeping Operations, Herve Ladsous, gives a press conference in which he describes the level of violence in Syria as “appalling” and stresses the importance of “the role of countries and voices with influence, including in the region.”

May 2 – SNC urges the UNSC, UNMIS observers, and international humanitarian agencies “to investigate the numerous cases of arbitrary detention and death-under-torture that regularly occur in Syria” as a “top-priority matter.”

May 3 – HRW releases a report documenting dozens of extrajudicial executions, killings of civilians, and destruction of civilian property that qualify as war crimes, arbitrary detention and torture.
May 6 – Saudi Arabia’s Foreign Affairs Ministry renewed its warning to citizens against travelling to Syria and urged those in the country to leave in view of the continuing deterioration of the security situation.

May 7 – Syria holds its first parliamentary elections under the new constitution, which many opposition activists boycott. The SNC calls the elections an “insult to democracy,” while the US says that holding elections where assaults are ongoing and basic human rights are being denied to citizens “borders on ludicrous.”

May 8 – Following his briefing to the UNSC, the JSE holds a press conference in which he describes the “continued serious violations” of the ceasefire and the “unacceptable” levels of violence and abuses.

May 8 – ICRC appeals for $2.7 million in order to step up efforts to help the 1.5 million people affected by fighting both inside Syria and to refugees in neighboring countries.

May 9 – US officially continues the national emergency with respect to actions of the government of Syria, citing “the regime’s own brutality and repression of it citizens” as a danger to the Syrian people and the entire region.

May 9 – Speaking to the UNGA, the UNSG says that there is a brief window to stop the violence and the efforts of the JSE “represent the last, best chance for peace.”

May 10 – UNSG and JSE make statements condemning twin bombings in Damascus that reportedly killed 55 Syrians and wounded over 300 others.

May 10 – US announces it will allocate $40 million to assist relief organizations aiding victims of the Syrian crisis.

May 11 – EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs, Catherine Ashton, issues a statement condemning the Damascus bombings and calling on all parties to fully cooperate with the mission of the JSE, including achieving a cessation of violence.

May 13 – HRW reports that the government is violating the Annan plan by arbitrarily arresting and holding peaceful activists incommunicado.

May 14 – EU adopts another round of sanctions against 3 individuals associated with the Assad government and 2 entities financially supporting it.

May 15 – MSF reports that wounded people and medical workers in Syria are still being targeted and threatened.

May 15 – Burhan Ghalioun is reelected as head of the SNC.

May 16 – The White House says it is “deeply concerned by the escalating violence on the ground in Syria and the country’s deepening sectarianism, along obviously with the regime’s failure to allow for a political transition.”
May 17 – After backlash following his reelection, Burhan Ghalioun announces his resignation has head of the SNC.

May 17 – UNSG puts the death toll at 10,000.

May 18 – Canada imposes an eighth round of sanctions, prohibiting the export of various luxury goods to Syria and imposing asset freezes several companies and individuals associated with the Assad regime.

May 18 – UN SMIS head Gen. Mood says there are worrying incidents of violence, but there are nearly 260 of the full 300 observers already on the ground in Syria and that the mission “must be given a real chance” to bring on talks between parties.

May 19 – Following their meeting at Camp David, the Group of Eight (G8) says it is appalled by the loss of life, humanitarian crisis, and serious and widespread human rights abuses in Syria and remains resolved to consider further UN measures as appropriate.

May 20 – US Ambassador to NATO says there is no current planning related to a NATO role in Syria, though the organization would take seriously any request from a NATO ally for such planning.

May 23 – Amnesty International releases its Annual Report 2012 in which it reports that Syria’s government forces “used lethal and other excessive force against peaceful protesters” and that the “pattern and scale of state abuses may have constituted crimes against humanity.”

May 24 – CoI releases a periodic update covering events since March 2012, reporting that “gross violations continue unabated in an increasingly militarized context,” despite the parties to the conflict agreeing to the six-point plan.

May 24 – UN SMIS observers meet with members of the Syrian opposition to assist with mediation efforts and “establish bridges to help build the space for a political process on the basis of the six-point plan.”

May 25 – Secretary of State Clinton says the US is concerned that developments in Syria are contributing to instability in Lebanon and calls on the Syrian regime to stop the violence against its own people and fully implement the Annan plan.

May 25 – US releases its Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 2011 on Syria, saying that one of the “most egregious human rights problems during the year” was the regime’s “massive attacks and strategic use of citizen killings as a means of intimidation and control.”

May 27 – UN SC releases a press statement condemning the killing of over 100 people in Houla in attacks that involved the killing of civilians by shooting at close range and by severe physical abuse, and a “series of Government artillery and tank shellings on a residential neighborhood,” and demands the cessation of violence in all its forms.
May 27 – EU’s High Representative for Foreign Affairs, Catherine Ashton, says she is appalled by the reports of the massacre in Houla and calls on the Syrian regime to immediately cease all forms of violence.

May 27 – In a statement, the ICRC says it is shocked by the high civilian casualties in Houla and urges the parties to the fighting in Syria to distinguish at all times between civilians and those who participate in the hostilities.

May 29 – JSE Annan meets with President Assad, saying the situation is at a “tipping point” and stressing the need for “bold steps” from the Syrian government in order for the six-point plan to succeed.

May 29 – Panos Moumtzis, the UN refugee coordinator for Syria, tells reporters that there are now 500,000 IDPs in Syria and 73,000 refugees in neighboring countries who have fled the violence in Syria.

May 29 – In response to the massacre in Houla, 11 countries – Australia, Canada, Britain, the US, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and Spain – expel Syrian diplomats from their capitals.

May 29 – In a letter to the President of the UNSC, Secretary-General of the LAS Nabil Elaraby calls on the UNSC to “shoulder its responsibility” to halt the violence by taking measure to protect Syrian civilians, including by increasing the number of UNSMIS observers and granting them the authority to end crimes being committed.

May 30 – At the request of Qatar, Turkey, the US, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Denmark and the EU, the HRC announces it will hold a Special Session on June 1 on the deteriorating human rights situation in Syria and the recent killings in Houla.

May 31 – In a statement, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child strongly deplored the Houla massacre which killed 49 children, most under the age of 10, and reminds Syria that “it bears the primary responsibility to protect its population and should therefore take immediate measures to stop the use of excessive and lethal force against civilians.”

June 1 – An operational update from the ICRC reports that it came to the aid of thousands who fled Houla fearing for their lives and that it remains extremely concerned about the humanitarian situation throughout Syria.

June 1 – In a statement to the HRC 19th Special Session on the situation of human rights in Syria and the recent killings in Houla, Navi Pillay calls on the Government of Syria to assume its responsibility to protect the civilian population and urges the international community to call for an immediate investigation into the events in Houla.

June 1 – HRC passes a resolution condemning the government’s use of force against the civilian population, urging the government to uphold its responsibility to protect, and calling for the Commission of Inquiry to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the killings in Houla.
June 3 – HRW calls on Russian arms supplier Rosoboronexport to halt dealings with the Syrian government or risk complicity in ongoing crimes against humanity being committed by the Syrian government.

June 3 – Catherine Ashton says that further militarization of the conflict will bring “enormous suffering” to Syria and calls upon the government to immediately cease all forms of violence and repression.

June 4 – Refugees International says the Syrian refugee crisis may threaten the political stability of Lebanon and Jordan, with roughly 125,000 Syrian refugees between them, and calls on donors to increase humanitarian and development aid.

June 5 – The Syrian government bans 17 diplomats from Belgium, Britain, Bulgaria, France, Italy, Canada, Germany, the US, Spain, Switzerland, and Turkey.

June 5 – Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner for European Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, says the humanitarian situation in Syria has “turned from bad to desperate” and calls for full cooperation by the Syrian government with the humanitarian response plan.

June 6 – President of the UNGA, Nasir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser expresses his disappointment in the Syrian government for failing to comply with the six-point plan.

June 7 – Following the June 6 massacre in al-Qubeir, Head of UNSMIS, Gen. Mood, says that observers are being obstructed from the village by the Syrian army.

June 7 – Speaking to the UNGA, JSE Kofi Annan says that the plan is not being implemented and it is the collective responsibility of the international community to act quickly before the situation becomes more radicalized and polarized.

June 7 – “Friends of Syria” International Working Group on Sanctions meet for the second time and call on all members of the international community to implement and enforce sanctions to increase pressure on the Assad regime to comply with its obligations under the six-point plan.

June 7 – Catherine Ashton strongly condemns the “brutal violence and killing of dozens of civilians” in el-Qubeir on June 6, saying the Syrian government has the responsibility to protect its people.

June 8 – SNC calls for immediate intervention by the UNSC in response to the Syrian government’s renewed shelling of Homs, and urges UNSMIS observers to establish a fixed base in the city.

June 8 – EU adopts a special measure amounting to €23 million in order to enable a rapid response to the crisis situation in Syria and to areas affected by the influx of refugees.

June 9 – SNC elects Kurdish activist Abdelbaset Sieda as its new head.

June 11 – JSE Annan expresses his grave concern over the escalation of violence, including Syrian forces’ shelling of Homs, where a large number of civilians are trapped.
June 11 – UNSG expresses concern at the intensification of armed violence across Syria over the past several days and the grave danger facing civilians.

June 13 – Amnesty International releases a report ("Deadly Reprisals") detailing evidence of grave abuses, including crimes against humanity and war crimes, committed by the Syrian army in towns and villages around Idlib and Aleppo from late February through late May.

June 13 – UN Central Emergency Response Fund provides $9 million in funding to assist Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan, who now total over 78,000 people.

June 14 – Seven US Senators (Cornyn, Durbin, Ayotte, Gillibrand, Boxer, Risch, and Menendez) submit a resolution (S. RES 494) condemning the Government of Russia for providing weapons to the Assad regime.

June 14 – SASGs on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect express alarm at the escalation of targeted attacks against civilians which “underscore the Syrian Government’s manifest failure to protect its population.”

June 15 – EU imposes new sanctions on Syria, banning the export of luxury goods and dual use goods that can be used for internal repression to Syria.

June 15 – Gen. Mood remarks that there is a “lack of willingness to seek a peaceful transition” in Syria and that intensifying violence is limiting UNSMIS’ ability to carry out its mandate.

June 15 – HRW reports that Syrian government forces have used sexual violence to torture men, women, and boys in detention, while pro-government militias have sexually abused women and girls during home raids.

June 16 – Gen. Mood announces the suspension of UNSMIS monitoring activities in Syria, citing escalating violence, the “lack of willingness by the parties to seek a peaceful transition, and the push towards advancing military positions” as endangering observers and limiting their ability to carry out the mandate.

June 18 – In her speech at the opening of the HRC’s 20th Special Session, Navi Pillay says that the Syrian government is committing crimes against humanity and possible war crimes.

June 19 – Amnesty International says that increased use of helicopters by the Syrian army is putting civilians at an even greater risk and demonstrates the need for the UNSC to impose an arms embargo.

June 20 – ICRC requests a temporary pause in fighting between the Syrian army and opposition groups in several neighborhoods of Homs in order to evacuate and otherwise assist hundreds of people stranded and in need of medical attention.

June 21 – UNESCO calls for an investigation into the deaths of 5 Syrian journalists, killed in shell attacks in Damascus and Homs on May 27 and 28.
June 21 – OCHA reports that 1.5 million Syrians are in need of humanitarian assistance; UNHCR reports that 86,293 Syrian refugees are registered in neighboring countries.

June 22 – At a joint press conference, the JSE and Gen. Mood say that UNSMIS is prepared to resume its monitoring activities when the situation on the ground allows. Annan calls on “countries of influence” to raise pressure on parties to the Syrian conflict; Gen. Mood says that the Syrian government bears the primary responsibility to protect its civilians.

June 22 – Syria shoots down an unarmed Turkish fighter jet, claiming the jet was in Syrian airspace, while Turkey says it was flying over international waters.

June 24 – OIC holds an emergency meeting to discuss the situation in Syria and the OIC’s Secretary General warns of the regional impact of the possible civil war.

June 24 – Turkey invokes Art 4 of the NATO Charter to request an emergency NATO meeting in response to the downing of one of Turkey’s fighter jets by Syria over international waters. Turkey’s Foreign Ministry calls the act “unacceptable” and says that under international law, Turkey “reserves the right to respond.”

June 25 – OIC’s executive committee recommends suspending Syria’s membership and urges the UNSC “to assume its full responsibilities” to put an end to the violence.

June 25 – Australia expands its sanctions against Syria to include a ban on all commercial transactions between the two countries of petroleum, petroleum products, financial services, telecommunications, and precious metals.

June 25 – EU strongly condemns the “brutal violence and massacres of civilians” in Houla and Qubeir and imposes additional sanctions against the Syrian International Islamic Bank and Syria’s national oil transport company.

June 26 – NATO meets at the request of Turkey and says it is not considering military action but will remain seized of future developments.

June 26 – The CoI issues an updated report on Syria, saying that gross violations of human rights are occurring regularly, in the context of increasingly militarized fighting.

June 27 – The HRC holds an Interactive Dialogue to discuss the situation in Syria.

June 27 – HRW reports that Syrian forces along the Jordanian border are indiscriminately shooting at anyone trying to flee to Jordan, including civilian women and children.

June 28 – The UNHCR estimates that there will be 185,000 Syrian refugees by the end of 2012.

June 28 – In a news release, the ICRC says it is still unable to enter Homs and remains very concerned about the civilian population there.

June 30 – JSE Annan hosts foreign ministers of the P5, Iraq, Kuwait, and Qatar; the Secretaries-General of the UN and LAS; and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs to “Syria Action
Group” meeting in Geneva to discuss “steps and measures to secure full implementation of the six-point plan,” an immediate cessation of violence, and agree on guidelines for a Syrian-led political transition.

July 2 – Navi Pillay calls on the UNSC to refer the situation in Syria to the ICC over the commission of crimes against humanity.

July 3 – HRW releases a report (“Torture Archipelago”) detailing the locations, agencies responsible, torture methods used, and commanders in charge of 27 detention facilities run by Syrian intelligence agencies.

July 6 – The “Friends of Syria” meet in Paris, calling for broader sanctions against Syria and regime officials.

July 6 – HRC adopts a resolution condemning the widespread violence, including the targeting of children and calling for an investigation into abuses and violations of international law by the Syrian authorities.

July 6 – UNSG releases his report to the UNSC on the implementation of resolution 2043 and UNSMIS end of mandate.

July 8 – UNSG says the situation in Syria has deteriorated significantly and become more militarized, and “it is crucial for the UNSC and the Action Group to pressure the parties to prevent any further escalation of the conflict.”

July 9 – JSE Annan meets with President Assad, with Annan reporting that the Syrian government remains committed to the six-point plan.

July 10 – UNSG stresses the need for collaboration between the UN and the LAS to work towards a solution to the Syria crisis.

July 13 – UNSG releases a statement on the mass killings in Treimseh, condemning the violence and calling upon all Member States to take “collective and decisive action to immediately and fully stop the tragedy unfolding in Syria.”

July 15 – ICRC declares that the Syrian conflict has now reached the level of civil war, making all combatants officially subject to the Geneva Conventions.

July 16 – The Fourth Syrian Humanitarian Forum takes place in in Geneva to mobilize resources to provide assistance to Syrians affected by the conflict. Valerie Amos says the fighting is having a devastating impact on Syrians and calls on all parties to “take all feasible precautions to avoid civilian injury and loss of life.”

July 17 – JSE Annan meets with Russian President Putin to reach an agreement on a course of action and urging unified UNSC action.
July 18 – The US Treasury announces additional sanctions against 29 officials and 5 companies linked to the Syrian government agency responsible for developing and producing non-conventional weapons.

July 18 – UNSG meets with Chinese President Hu Jintao to urge UNSC action, telling reporters the situation is “very serious” and that the UNSC should address it “with a sense of urgency and take collective action with a sense of unity.”

July 19 – Russia and China veto a third UNSC resolution (with Pakistan and South Africa abstaining) aimed at imposing sanctions upon the Syrian government for failing to implement the peace plan.

July 20 – UNSC adopts resolution 2059, renewing the mandate of UNSMIS for a “final period of 30 days,” indicating that any further renewal would require a significant reduction in violence on the ground.

July 20 – UNHCR says it is gravely concerned for the “thousands of Syrian civilians and refugees who have been forced to flee” due to violence.

July 22 – UNSG puts the Syrian death toll at over 17,000.

July 23 – EU strengthens its sanctions against Syria with the enforcement of an arms embargo and asset freezes of three entities and 26 individuals supporting the regime.

July 25 – Head of UN Peacekeeping, Herve Ladsous, says that half of the 300 UNSMIS observers have been sent home, though the crisis in Syria remains “of utmost concern.”

July 26 – Ladsous says during a press conference that while the level of violence remains high, the UN is “in no way packing and going,” and that the 150 UNSMIS observers who have left Syria have done so only temporarily.

July 27 – Navi Pillay expresses deep concern over the escalating violence and threat to civilians and reminds the Syrian government of its Responsibility to Protect.

July 29 – Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Valerie Amos expresses extreme concern by the impact of violence on civilians in Aleppo and Damascus.

July 30 – UNSG expresses his concern about the situation in Aleppo and the impact of shelling and use of heavy weapons on civilians there. He says that Syria’s use of its chemical weapons would be “an outrageous crime and a major concern for the entire international community.”

July 31 – UNHCR reports that 200,000 people fled the violence in Aleppo over the last several days, and that the total number of refugees stands at over 129,240.

Aug 1 – Amnesty International releases a report (“All Out Repression”) detailing “a wide range of systematic, state-directed violations including the deliberate targeting of peaceful protesters and activists, the hunting down of injured protesters, the routine use of torture, the targeting of medics
providing life-saving emergency treatment to the wounded, arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances” in Aleppo.

**Aug 1** – As August chair of the UNSC, France announces it will outline plans for a new push to address the body’s diplomatic impasse, including an urgent meeting of UNSC members at the ministerial level to “maintain high-level engagement, reinforce dialogue with our partners, Russia and China in particular, and week progress in resolving [the Syria crisis].”

**Aug 2** – Kofi Annan announces his resignation as the JSE to Syria, saying that “increasing militarization on the ground and the clear lack of unity in the Security Council have fundamentally changed the circumstances for the effective exercise of my role.” (See the UNGS’s remarks on Annan’s resignation.)

**Aug 2** – A Joint Rapid Food Security Needs Assessment carried out by the UN WFP, FAO and the Syrian Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform reports that nearly 3 million Syrians are in need of food, crops and livestock assistance. 1.5 million need “urgent and immediate food assistance over the next 3 to 6 months.”

**Aug 2** – President Obama approves an additional $12 million in emergency relief aid to Syria.

**Aug 3** – Amnesty International calls on the FSA to follow through with its investigation of the unlawful killing of members of a pro-government clan in an impartial and comprehensive matter, referring the findings to the UN Commission of Inquiry.

**Aug 3** – The UNGA adopts a resolution (133 in favor, 12 against, 31 abstentions) condemning all violence, “irrespective of where it comes from,” including the increasing use of heavy weapons by Syrian authorities.

**Aug 6** – Syria’s Prime Minister, Riad Hijab, defects from the regime.

**Aug 6** – Head of UNSMIS, Lieutenant General Babacar Gaye, expresses concern over the situation in Aleppo and its impact on the civilian population, calling on all parties to open a dialogue to alleviate the suffering of civilians and end the conflict.

**Aug 6** – The ICRC says the conflict is taking a heavy toll on civilians and appeals to all parties to respect the international humanitarian law.

**Aug 9** – The UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons says that the escalation of violence has led to a “severe internal displacement crisis in Syria.”

**Aug 9** – Tehran hosts a Consultative Meeting on Syria. In a message to those states participating, the UNSG urges action, saying the international community must “face up the collective responsibility we shoulder.”

**Aug 10** – The UNHCR reports an increase in the number of refugees fleeing Syria, with a total of those registered near 150,000.
Aug 10 – The US Treasury Department announces new sanctions against Hizbollah for providing support to the Government of Syria and “its integral role in the continued violence the Assad regime is inflicting on the Syrian population.”

Aug 11 – Secretary Clinton and Turkey’s Foreign Minister Davutoglu meet to discuss joint efforts to end the violence and respond to the humanitarian crisis in Syria.

Aug 13 – General Babacar Gaye says that none of the parties have prioritized the needs of civilians and UNSMIS has been working to secure local pauses to enable assistance to civilians.

Aug 14 – Valerie Amos calls on all parties to the conflict to respect international humanitarian law, stressing the importance of protecting civilians.

Aug 15 – CoI releases an updated report on the situation of human rights in Syria, stating that government forces and shabiha are committing crimes against humanity and war crimes, and are responsible for the killings in Houla. Armed opposition groups have committed war crimes, though their abuses have not been on the same as those of the government.

Aug 15 – OIC adopts a resolution suspending Syria’s membership. The US commends the OIC for the action.

Aug 16 – Gerard Araud, France’s ambassador to the UN and president of the UNSC, says that the UNSC will not renew the mandate of UNSMIS because the conditions to keep the mission in Syria were not fulfilled. The UN will keep a presence on the ground with a liaison office in Damascus.

Aug 17 – UNSG and the Secretary-General of the LAS announce the appointment of Lakhdar Brahimi as the new JSE for Syria.

Aug 17 – The ASG for Peacekeeping Operations says that both sides in Syria have chosen the path of war, limiting the prospects for diplomatic and mediation efforts.

Aug 17 – The UNHCR reports the number of registered refugees in neighboring countries at over 170,000, with 1.2 million internally displaced.

Aug 18 – The OIC welcomes the appointment of Lakhdar Brahimi as the JSE and calls on the international community to “work more actively in cooperation and coordination.”

Aug 20 – The UNSMIS mandate expires.

Aug 21 – The UN and LAS appoint Nasser Al-Kidwa, Deputy to JSE Annan, as Deputy to incoming JSE Brahimi.

Aug 21 – Members of The Elders and three international humanitarian organizations urge the UNSC to overcome political deadlock and respond to the humanitarian crisis within Syria.

Aug 22 – UN humanitarian chief Valerie Amos appeals to the international community to increase funding for 2.5 million Syrians in urgent need of basic services.
Aug 23 – Britain and France back the US threat of military intervention with a no-fly zone in Syria should the regime transport or deploy Syria’s chemical weapons stockpile.

Aug 24 – UNHCR says that several days of sectarian clashes in Tripoli, Lebanon, sparked by the violence in Syria, are hampering efforts to provide assistance to Syrian refugees.

Aug 24 – UNSG reiterates his support for the new JSE, Lakhdar Brahimi, saying it is “crucially important” that the UNSC supports his efforts.

Aug 27 – UNSG condemns the “brutal” killings in Daraya and calls for an immediate investigation.

Aug 29 – Turkey urges the UNSC to create a safe zone inside Syria to project refugees.

Aug 30 – The UNSC holds a special session to discuss the crisis in Syria.

Aug 30 – The Human Rights Director of UNSMIS reminds both the Government and the opposition of their obligation to protect civilians from violence.

Aug 30 – HRW reports that recent government attacks on bakeries are “at least recklessly indiscriminate and the pattern of number of attacks suggest that government forces have been targeting civilians.”

Aug 31 – The ICRC says it is “extremely concerned about the welfare of the civilian population” as the situation edges towards “irreversible deterioration.”

Aug 31 – Canada adds 47 individuals and 3 entities to its Syria sanctions.

Sept 2 – GCC states condemn the “continued killings and massacres against the Syrian people” and call on the international community to “should its responsibilities and take effective measures to protect Syrian civilians.”

Sept 3 – SOHR reports the August death toll at 5,440 people, including 4,114 civilians. UNICEF says 1,600 people were killed in the previous week alone.

Sept 4 – UNHCR reports that 103,416 Syrians fled the country in August, the highest monthly total thus far.

Sept 4 – Addressing the UNGA, JSE Brahimi says that situation in Syria is “deteriorating steadily,” as “the death toll is staggering, the destruction is reaching catastrophic proportions and the suffering of the people is immense.”

Sept 5 – At the UNGA interactive dialogue on the “Responsibility to Protect: Timely and Decisive Response,” 18 member-states raise concern over the situation in Syria, while the UNSG says that the UNSC’s inaction on the issue has had a high cost for civilians.

Sept 6 – UNICEF reports that there are 1.3 million children affected by the conflict in Syria and in need of basic health services.
Sept 7 – UN nearly increases its humanitarian appeal for Syria from $180m to $347m, reporting the number of people in need has doubled since July to 2.5 million.

Sept 9 – UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East "calls to the authorities to afford protection from the effects of armed conflict for refugees and other civilians across Syria" as fighting nears a Palestinian refugee camp in Damascus, killing a staff member.

Sept 10 – At the opening of the 21st session of the HRC, the UNSG and Navi Pillay condemn the commission of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Syria.

Sept 10 – At the side event on human rights in Syria at the 21st session of the HRC, Navi Pillay calls the situation “increasingly dire, with a terrible disregard, that amounts almost to contempt, for the protections of civilians,” and says Syria is failing in its Responsibility to Protect its population and the international community must “act in unison to prevent further violations.”

Sept 11 – UNHCR says the number of Syrian refugees registered or awaiting registration in neighboring countries now tops a quarter of a million.

Sept 11 – EU High Representative Catherine Ashton says that the situation in Syria has worsened and the international community has a collective responsibility to overcome deadlock at the UNSC and agree on a common response for the Syrian people.

Sept 13 – JSE Brahimi, on his first official trip to Syria, arrives in Damascus for talks with representatives from the Syrian government, opposition, and civil society.

Sept 15 – JSE Brahimi meets with President Assad in Damascus, after which he tells reporters that the crisis is “deteriorating and represents a danger to the Syrian people, to the region, and to the whole world.”

Sept 16 – Pope Benedict urges Arab leaders to “propose workable solutions respecting the dignity, the rights, and the religion of every human person” and calls for the cessation of all violence in Syria.

Sept 17 – HRW reports that opposition forces are committing war crimes, including extrajudicial executions, torture, and ill-treatment of detainees.

Sept 17 – UNHCR holds an Interactive Dialogue on Syria, during which the chair of the CoI reports the human rights situation to have significantly deteriorated, while several countries highlight the Syrian government’s failure to protect civilians from ongoing atrocities.

Sept 17 – World Federation of United Nations Associations expresses deep concern over the “grave loss of life in Syria” and solidarity with Syrian citizens “who are confronting daily atrocities,” and calls for members of the UNSC to “take their role in preventing and halting mass violence seriously by seeking a multi-lateral solution to the conflict in a timely and decisive manner.”
Sept 19 – Amnesty International releases a briefing paper based on first-hand field investigations providing evidence that the Syrian government is indiscriminately bombing and shelling rebel-held territory, with civilians bearing the brunt of the attacks.

Sept 20 – “Friends of Syria” meet in The Hague to discuss toughening and improving the coordination of sanctions against the Assad regime.

Sept 24 – US State Department official says the US will send more aid to the Syrian opposition to help them “protect themselves and defend themselves,” assuring that the support will not include weapons or ammunition.

Sept 25 – Save the Children releases a collection of testimonies from Syrian refugees (“Untold Atrocities”), revealing how children have been caught up in the war, being killed, maimed, and tortured.

Sept 25-Oct 1 – At the opening of the 67th UNGA, 118 states raise the crisis in Syria in their speeches during the General Debate.

Sept 26 – UNSC issues a Presidential Statement in which it welcomes the appointment of the new JSE, as well as the intensifying cooperation between the UN and LAS in matters of international peace and security.

Sept 27 – UNHCR forecasts that 700,000 Syrian refugees will have fled to neighboring countries by the end of the year, with two or three-thousand crossing daily.

Sept 28 – HRC adopts a resolution condemning the ongoing violence in Syria, particularly against civilians; extending the mandate of the CoI; and calling upon Syrian authorities to meet their responsibility to protect.

Sept 28 – “Friends of Syria” meet on the sidelines of the UNGA.

Sept 30 – Carla del Ponte, former UN chief prosecutor, is appointed as a member of the UN CoI on Syria.

Oct 1 – UNSG meets with Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Al-Muallem, raising concerns about the continued killings and attacks committed by the Syrian government, appealing to the government to “show compassion to its own people.”

Oct 2 – UNHCR reports that over 300,000 Syrians are registered or awaiting registration as refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq, which is triple the level of three months ago.

Oct 4 – UNSG urges Syria and Turkey to exercise “maximum restraint” and abandon the use of violence following border incidents.

Oct 4 – Turkey’s Parliament authorizes further military action against Syria after a Syrian mortar strike of the Turkish town of Akcakale killed 5 civilians.
Oct 4 – In a Press Statement, the UNSC condemns the shelling of the Turkish town of Akcakale by Syrian armed forces that resulted in the death of five civilians.

Oct 5 – In a Press Statement, the UNSC condemns a terrorist attack in Aleppo that killed dozens and wounded over 100 civilians.

Oct 9 – UNSG calls upon the Syrian government and the opposition to adhere to a government-initiated ceasefire, and for other countries to stop supplying arms to the opposition.

Oct 9 – UNICEF says it will be expanding operations in Syria, reporting that over 100,000 children have been displaced to Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Iraq.

Oct 10 – NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen says that NATO has “all necessary plans in place to protect and defend Turkey if necessary.”

Oct 12 – EU imposes another round of sanctions, with an assets freeze and travel ban on an additional 28 Syrians and two firms.

Oct 14 – HRW reports that Syrian forces have dropped internationally-banned cluster munitions on rebel-held areas, killing scores of civilians.

Oct 14 – JSE Brahimi meets with Turkish President Abdullah Gul and Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu to discuss the effects of the conflict on the region.

Oct 15 – WHO condemns attacks on health facilities in Syria and reminds all parties of their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect civilians, health facilities and health professionals during conflict.

Oct 15 – JSE Brahimi calls for both sides to observe a ceasefire to mark the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha.

Oct 16 – UNHCR urges all member-states of the EU to adhere to the principles of their Common European Asylum System and ensure access to territory and asylum procedures for all refugees fleeing violence in Syria.

Oct 18 – Navi Pillay calls the situation “dire,” with no end in sight, warns of its potential escalation to “all-out sectarian conflict,” and urges the UNSC to speak with one voice in condemning the violence.

Oct 19 – Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu urges “direct humanitarian intervention” by the international community to end the bloodshed.

Oct 23 – HRW presents further evidence of use by the Syrian air force of cluster bombs as part of a “reign of terror on civilians in rebel-held areas across the country.”

Oct 24 – In her annual report on the work of the OHCHR, Navi Pillay says the body’s past year of work has been marred by the conflict in Syria and urges the international community to take urgent measures to protect the Syrian people.
Oct 24 – UNSC releases a Press Statement welcoming the Eid al-Adha holiday ceasefire proposed by JSE Brahimi and calls upon all parties, particularly the Syrian government, to implement it.

Oct 25 – UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Valerie Amos reports the number of Syrian refugees to be over 350,000, with at least 1.2 million internally displaced, and urges all parties to “do more to protect civilians.”

Oct 25 – UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson says the lack of a strong UNSC resolution on Syria has “weakened” UN efforts to find a peace formula.

Oct 29 – UNSG expresses deep disappointment that all parties failed to respect the Eid al-Adha ceasefire and says suffering inside Syria will only grow as long as the international community remains at odds.

Nov 1 – China proposes a new four-point peace plan calling for a ceasefire and a political transition to end the conflict.

Nov 3 – Syrian opposition groups begin four days of internal meetings in Doha aimed at restructuring the political opposition to create a unified body.

Nov 5 – JSE Brahimi appeals to the UNSC to turn the June 30 Action Group Communique – which called for all parties to immediately re-commit to a sustained cessation of armed violence – into a resolution.

Nov 6 – UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman says that the current path of violence in Syria will lead “to its destruction,” and urgent efforts to find a political solution are necessary.

Nov 7 – WFP praises Lebanon for its support of Syrians seeking refuge from the violence, and reports the total number of Syrian refugees at over 380,000.

Nov 9 – SNC elects Christian politician George Sabra to succeed Abdulbaset Sieda as the body’s new head.

Nov 9 – OCHA estimates that four million people will need humanitarian aid inside of Syria by early 2013, with nearly 100,000 Syrians remain in areas inaccessible to UN aid agencies.

Nov 11 – Several opposition groups, including the SNC, unify under the new umbrella body, the National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces (SOC), with the aim of ousting the Assad regime and serving as the legitimate representative of the Syrian people.

Nov 13 – France becomes the first Western nation to fully recognize the new SOC as the legitimate representative of the Syrian people.

Nov 14 – US pledges an additional $30 million in humanitarian assistance to those affected by the conflict.
**Nov 14** – HRW **calls upon** the newly-formed SOC and those countries supplying it with financing or arms to ensure that Syrian rebels adhere to international humanitarian and human rights law.

**Nov 15** – US President Obama **says** he is encouraged by the creation of the SOC, but that the US is not prepared to recognize it as the sole legitimate representative of the Syrian people or a government in exile.

**Nov 15** – **Turkey** recognizes the SOC as “the sole legitimate representative of the people of Syria.”

**Nov 18** – **Iran** hosts a conference aimed at discussing a possible end to the conflict, attended by some 200 members of Syria’s opposition and Syria’s National Reconciliation Minister.

**Nov 19** – **Turkey** requests the deployment of Patriot missile systems following several instances of Syrian artillery fire landing in Turkish border villages.

**Nov 20** – **UK** calls SOC a “credible alternative to the Assad regime” and recognizes it as the “sole legitimate representative” of the Syrian people, pledging £1.6 million to help with communications equipment.

**Nov 20** – **JSE Brahimi** begins a regions trip to Egypt, Kuwait, and the UAE top discuss with government and LAS officials, as well as the UNSG, the situation in Syria.

**Nov 21** – **SNC leader** George Sabra says Syria will require $60 billion from allied nations for reconstruction in the first six month after the conflict ends.

**Nov 23** – **UNICEF** reports facing “enormous challenges” on the ground affecting its distribution of aid, citing the deteriorating security situation.

**Nov 27** – **UN Humanitarian chief** Valerie Amos reports that the crisis is getting worse daily, while Syrian forces are firing mortars at refugees attempting to flee to Jordan.

**Nov 27** – **UNGA’s Third Committee** passes a **resolution** (132 in favor, 12 against, 35 abstentions) condemning the continued widespread and systematic gross human rights violations by Syrian authorities, and calling on the Government to immediately end all such attacks against civilians, protect its population, and comply with its obligations under international law.

**Nov 28** – **Spain** recognizes the as the legitimate representative of the Syrian people.

**Nov 28** – **EU** reduces its renewal term for sanctions on Syria from one year down to three months in order to allow the EU to look at amendments to the arms embargo to possibly allow the supply of “non-lethal training and equipment” to the rebels.

**Nov 29** – **UNSG** **condemns** the Nov 28 twin car bombings near Damascus, saying, “There are no circumstances that justify the targeting of civilians.”

**Nov 29** – **HRW** **reports** that some armed opposition groups in Syria are using children for combat and other military purposes.
Nov 29 – **International Campaign to Ban Landmines** reports that Syria was the only government in the world to use antipersonnel landmines in 2012.

Nov 29 – **Amnesty International** raises concern that Syrian authorities are “seeking to prevent the world from learning what is happening amid increasingly intense fighting” after Syria’s international internet connectivity and mobile phone services are completely shut down around midday in Damascus.

Nov 29 – **JSE Brahimi** calls upon members of the UNSC to come together and adopt a resolution that will constitute the basis of a political process in Syria.

Nov 30 – **UNSG** and **JSE Brahimi**, speaking at the UNGA, highlight the worsening security situation on the ground, where fighting has engulfed nearly all of the country, and call for greater efforts made in particular by members of the UNSC to resolve the crisis.

Nov 30 – “Friends of Syria” meet in Tokyo to coordinate sanctions against the Syrian government.

Dec 3 – **UNHCR** reports the number of Syrian refugees at over 480,000.

Dec 3 – UN suspends aid operations and withdraws all non-essential international staff, citing the deteriorating security situation.

Dec 3 – **OCHA** says that all calls for parties to honor their obligations to protect civilians in Syria “have had little effect, and ordinary people are paying the price.”

Dec 4 – **UNHCR** calls for safe passage for Syrians fleeing the country, saying “innocent civilians [are] the prime victims” of the ongoing violence.

Dec 5 – **UNICEF** condemns the December 4 shelling of a school near Damascus that killed a number of students and one teacher, saying schools must remain zones of peace.

Dec 6 – **JSE Brahimi** holds talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in Dublin to discuss a peace process for Syria based on the Geneva communiqué.

Dec 6 – **UNSG** expresses grave concern over Syria’s chemical weapons and reports of their possible plan for use, calling upon the Assad regime to refrain from such action.

Dec 9 – **JSE Brahimi** holds talks with senior Russian and US officials to explore avenues “to move forward a peaceful process and mobilize greater international action in favor of a political solution to the Syrian crisis.

Dec 10 – **Germany’s Foreign Office** expels four Syrian diplomats from Syria’s embassy in Berlin.

Dec 10 – **EU** contributes an additional €30 million in humanitarian funding for Syria.

Dec 11 – **UNHCR** reports that the number of Syrian refugees now tops 500,000, with at least 3,000 people fleeing daily.
Dec 11 – Obama administration designates the armed opposition al-Nusra Front as a “foreign terrorist organization” affiliated with al-Qaida in Iraq.

Dec 12 – President Obama recognizes the SOC as “the legitimate representative of the Syrian people in opposition to the Assad regime.”

Dec 12 – “Friends of Syria” meet in Morocco and recognize the SOC as the “legitimate representative of the Syrian people and the umbrella organization under which the Syrian opposition are gathering.”

Dec 12 – HRW reports that the Syrian military is using incendiary bombs in populated areas, which cause “especially cruel civilian suffering.”

Dec 13 – EU’s Parliament says that the EU should do more to help Syrian refugees by setting up a regional protection program, while EU member-states should agree to resettle some refugees.

Dec 14 – French President Francois Holland says that President Assad is losing against rebel forces and must leave as quickly as possible.

Dec 16 – UNSG expresses alarm over the escalation of violence, particularly government shelling of populations centers and attacks against civilians, calling upon all parties to protect civilians.

Dec 18 – Russia sends warships to the Syrian coast to assist in a possible evacuation of Russian citizens.

Dec 18 – UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict says the situation is dire for children in Syria, with an immediate end to the violence and inclusive peace process as the only viable option to preserve Syria’s future generations.

Dec 19 – UN and its humanitarian partners appeal for $1.5 billion to assist civilians affected by the ongoing conflict over the next six months. The UN Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria says there are no more safe areas where people can flee within the country, as most parts are engulfed in violence.

Dec 19 – WFP unveils an expanded Regional Response Plan to scale up assistance to an additional 750,000 Syrians fleeing the conflict.

Dec 20 – SASG on the Prevention of Genocide says the Syrian government is manifestly failing to protect its population and warns of the increasing risk of sectarian violence in Syria, highlighting the growing risk to civilian communities.

Dec 20 – EU allots an additional €21 million to help Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan.

Dec 22 – HRW calls upon the new SOC to condemn all attacks on civilians, regardless of their nationality.

Dec 23 – UAE urges its citizens against traveling to Lebanon because of the “difficult and sensitive political circumstances” related to the Syria crisis.
Dec 24-30 – JSE Brahimi spends a week in Damascus pursuing mediation efforts after meeting with President Assad on December 24.

Dec 26 – Head of Syria’s military police defects, saying the Syrian army has “deviated from its primary duty of protecting the country” and has transformed into “gangs of killing and destruction.”

Dec 27 – JSE Brahimi calls for “real change” in Syria, specifically the creation of a transitional government with full executive powers, with the help of the international community.

Dec 30 – JSE Brahimi warns of the potential collapse of the Syrian state and 2013 death toll that exceeds 100,000 if a political solution is not quickly reached.

Dec 31 – UNHCR reports over 575,000 Syrian refugees in neighboring countries, with numbers growing by an estimated 3,000 people daily.
2013:


Jan 4 – Lebanon agrees to begin recognizing, registering, and guaranteeing the protection of Syrian refugees, asking foreign donors for $180 million in assistance.

Jan 6 – EU reiterates that Assad must step aside to allow a political settlement, noting “the complete loss of Bashar al-Assad’s legitimacy in the eyes of the Syrian people.”

Jan 7 – UNSG expresses his disappointment that the January 6 speech given by President Assad “does not contribute to a solution that could end the terrible suffering of the Syrian people.”

Jan 7 – EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Catherine Ashton responds to Assad’s January 6 speech, saying she regrets that the Syrian regime is “not willing to commit to a credible political solution to the Syrian crisis.”

Jan 8 – WFP says that as a result of the deteriorating security situation, it is only able to reach 1.5 million of the 2.5 million Syrians in need of assistance every month, leaving 1 million Syrians without enough food.

Jan 10 – Foreign Ministers of Austria, Slovenia, Ireland and Denmark express their grave concern over the “horrendous crimes” being committed in Syria and call upon the UNSC to urgently refer the situation to the ICC.

Jan 10 – MSF reports that civilians in Idlib province are being made victims of a terror strategy carried out through intense and indiscriminate government bombings.

Jan 10 – Amnesty International calls for urgent action to stop sectarian attacks and prioritize the protection of minority groups in Syria.

Jan 11 – UNHCR reports the number of Syrian refugees at 612,134.

Jan 11 – JSE Brahimi says there is no military solution to the conflict and calls upon the international community, in particular members of the UNSC, to “create the opening that is necessary to start effectively solving the problem.”

Jan 12 – UNSG expresses deep concern about the situation in Syria as says the international community has a responsibility to protect its population, as well as hold accountable those responsible for committing atrocities.

Jan 14 – HRW reports the escalating and expanding use of indiscriminate cluster munitions by Syrian forces, which gravely endanger the civilian population.

Jan 14 – UNHCR reports a rise in the number of Syrian refugees in Turkey to over 153,300 people.
Jan 14 – **58 countries** send a letter to the UNSC calling for a referral of the situation to the ICC.

Jan 15 – Russia suspends its operations at its consulate in Aleppo after two explosions at Aleppo University kill at least 52 people and wound dozens.

Jan 15 – UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict **condemns** the high number of child casualties in Syria, calling on all parties to refrain from targeting civilians and protect children.

Jan 18 – UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Valerie Amos and the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, **stress** that the continued indiscriminate violence in Syria is worsening the human rights and humanitarian situations faced by civilians.

Jan 21 – UNSG and JSE Brahimi **meet** to discuss the crisis, backing a political transition as outlined in the Geneva communiqué.

Jan 22 – UNHCR **reports** rising needs for the ever-increasing refugee population, over half of whom are children.

Jan 23 – HRW **reports** that armed opposition groups have deliberately destroyed and/or looted Shia and Christian religious sites, furthering sectarian tensions.

Jan 25 – UNHCR announces it will open a second refugee camp in Jordan.

Jan 26 – UK pledges an additional £21m in humanitarian aid.

Jan 29 – UNHCR reports over 712,000 Syrians are registered or awaiting processing in neighboring countries.

Jan 29 – JSE Brahimi briefs the UNSC, **saying**, “Syria is being destroyed bit by bit,” with extensive regional and global implications. He calls upon the UNSC to unite and take action.

Jan 30 – At an international **donor conference** in Kuwait, countries and regional organizations collectively pledge over $1.5 billion in humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected Syrians.

Feb 2 – SOC leader Moaz Al-Khatib holds talks with the foreign ministers of Russia and Iran.

Feb 5 – CoI releases its **fourth report**, stating that government forces and affiliated militias continue to commit crimes against humanity and war crimes, while opposition groups have committed war crimes.

Feb 11 – UNSG says Syria is “self-destructing” and calls upon the UNSC to take action.

Feb 11 – SOC leader Moaz Al-Khatib offers to hold talks with President Assad.

Feb 12 – UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay says Syria’s death toll is likely approaching 70,000 and civilians are paying the price for the UNSC’s inaction.
**Feb 14** – Rosoboronexport, Russia’s state arms trader, says that in the absence of international sanctions on arms shipments to Syria it will continue to supply the Assad regime with weapons under existing contracts.

**Feb 15** – UN Special Representative of the UNSG on Sexual Violence in Conflict reports that Syrians are suffering greatly and “civilians already caught in a vicious cycle of violence are also the target of sexual violence by all parties to the conflict.”

**Feb 18** – EU extends its arms embargo on Syria for another three months with an agreement to keep the embargo under review to allow for future assistance to the opposition.

**Feb 19** – The seventh Syria Humanitarian Forum focuses on securing humanitarian access to the millions of Syrians in need. The UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Valerie Amos, reports the number of refugees at 860,000 and says the number of Syrians in need has quadrupled since June 2012.

**Feb 19** – UNICEF reports that at least half of the total affected population in Syria are children and that the organization is scaling up emergency help despite “significant funding gaps.”

**Feb 19** – Head of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations Herve Ladsous says contingency planning is underway for a possible future peacekeeping role in Syria.

**Feb 21** – UN extends the mandate of JSE Brahimi through the end of 2013.

**Feb 22** – JSE Brahimi condemns the 21 February car bombing in Damascus that killed approximately 100 and injured 250 civilians.

**Feb 26** – HRW reports that Syrian forces launched at least four ballistic missiles into populated areas of Aleppo during the week of February 17, killing at least 141 people, including 71 children.

**Feb 27** – UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres briefs the UNSC, calling the humanitarian situation “dramatic beyond description,” with the number of Syrian refugees expected to surpass one million by next month.

**Feb 28** – “Friends of Syria” meet in Rome, pledging more political and material support to the opposition and expressing concern over the “appalling conditions” suffered by Syrian civilians.

**Mar 2** – UNSG and JSE Brahimi meet in Switzerland to discuss the crisis, saying government and opposition forces have become “increasingly reckless with human life,” and calling upon the international community to remain focused on pursuing a political solution.

**Mar 3** – UNHCR reports the number of Syrian refugees at 975,000.

**Mar 6** – LAS offers Syria’s seat within the regional grouping to the SOC.

**Mar 11** – CoI reports in its Oral Update that armed hostilities now consume “vast swathes of the country,” with civilians paying the highest price. The CoI urges all parties to the conflict and the international community to ensure the protection of civilians.
Mar 11 – EU High Representative Catherine Ashton, speaking before the EU Foreign Affairs Council, says the international community must stop the killing in Syria and find a political solution.

Mar 14 – Amnesty International releases two reports: the first (“Syria: Summary killings and other abuses by armed opposition groups”) detailing serious abuses committed by some armed opposition groups; the second (“Syria: Government bombs rain on civilians”) documenting increasingly frequent indiscriminate attacks by government forces and other grave violations, including war crimes.

Mar 14 – UNSC issues a Press Statement expressing grave concern over repeated incidents of cross-border fire which have caused deaths among the Lebanese population, as well as deep concern over the impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon’s stability.

MARCH 15 – The conflict enters its third year.

Mar 16 – HRW reports that Syrian forces’ use of cluster munitions in residential areas is causing mounting civilian casualties.

Mar 18 – UNSG calls on all parties to the conflict and the international community to “inject urgency” towards reaching a political solution before Syria faces “complete destruction.”


Mar 20 – HRC adopts a resolution condemning violence against civilians, including the widespread and systematic gross violations of human rights by the Syrian authorities, and calls upon the government to protect its population. The resolution also extends the mandate of the CoI.

Mar 22 – UNSG condemns the “deliberate targeting of civilians and civilian objects” after a terrorist attack on the Iman mosque in Damascus kills at least 40 people.

Mar 25 – UN reduces its international staff in Damascus due to security threats.

Mar 26 – UNSG appoints Åke Sellström to head the UN fact-finding mission to investigate allegations of reported chemical weapons use in Syria.

Mar 27 – BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) meet at their annual summit, releasing a statement expressing deep concern with the deteriorating security and humanitarian situations in Syria, condemning the violence, and calling upon all parties to facilitate immediate and unimpeded humanitarian access to those in need of assistance.

Mar 28 – Assessment Working Group for Northern Syria releases a report detailing the deterioration of the situation in Aleppo as a result of the conflict.

Apr 1 – SOHR reports March 2013 to be the bloodiest month yet, with over 6,000 people killed.
**Apr 2** – WFP said the growing cycle of violence is preventing life-saving good aid from reaching many of the millions of Syrians in need and called upon all parties to allow humanitarian aid to pass safely into conflict areas.

**Apr 4** – ICRC says the humanitarian situation is rapidly worsening, with the Syrian government’s restrictions on aid convoys causing a lack of supplies being distributed to rebel-held areas.

**Apr 5** – UNHCR reports the number of registered Syrian refugees at over 4 million.

**Apr 9** – UNSG appeals to Syrian authorities to allow full country access to the UN chemical weapons investigation team and offer their complete cooperation.

**Apr 9** – Head of the armed opposition group Jabhat al-Nusra confirms the group’s ties to al-Qaeda in Iraq.

**Apr 9** – UNHCR says the situation is reaching a breaking point, with some 7,000 Syrian refugees being registered in neighboring countries daily.

**Apr 10** – HRW documents the Syrian government airstrikes against civilians, amounting to war crimes (“Death from the Skies: Deliberate and Indiscriminate Air Strikes on Civilians”).

**Apr 11** – UNSG meets with US President Obama in Washington, urging the US to demonstrate stronger leadership in working together with key partners of the UNSC towards a political solution to the Syrian conflict.

**Apr 12** – WFP reports that 2.5 million people inside Syria and one million Syrian refugees require food and other humanitarian assistance.

**Apr 15** – Heads of five UN agencies appeal for an urgent political solution to “stop the cruelty and carnage” in Syria.

**Apr 17** – UNSG says that a political solution in Syria is the only answer to the crisis in which “the military dynamic is destroying the county and imperiling the region. He notes that “civilians are paying the price and must be protected.”

**Apr 18** – UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Valerie Amos briefs the UNSC, reporting the total number of Syrian refugees at nearly 1.3 million, with an estimated 4.25 million internally displaced and 6.8 million in need of humanitarian assistance. UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guteres says 8,000 Syrians are fleeing the country daily, which could amount to 3.5 million refugees by the end of 2013.

**Apr 19** – JSE Brahimi urges the UNSC to act, saying Syria is “the most serious crisis.”

**Apr 21** – Moaz Al-Khatib announces his resignation as President of the SOC.

**Apr 22** – UNSC meets with the Prime Minister of Qatar and the Secretary-General of the LAS, expressing deep concern at the deteriorating situation in Syria and its growing regional impact.
Apr 22 – EU eases its oil embargo on Syria in order to “help the civilian population and support the opposition.”

Apr 23 – SOC names George Sabra as its interim president.

Apr 24 – UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman briefs the UNSC during its open debate on the situation in the Middle East, to report on the conflict’s spillover effects in Israel and Jordan, saying that as the situation continues to deteriorate, “it is more vital than ever that everyone collectively works towards preserving regional stability.”

Apr 24 – US Secretary of State John Kerry urges NATO to make plans over a potential Syrian chemical weapons threat and urges the increase of material and political support to the SOC.

Apr 26 – UNHCR releases a report detailing the conditions for Syrian refugees in Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon, and says that there are now over 1.4 million registered Syrian refugees in the region.

Apr 29 – UNSG renews his appeal for unfettered access to Syria for the UN chemicals weapons team.

May 5 – UNSG expresses grave concern over Israeli Air Force strikes in Syria, urging all sides to exercise maximum restraint to prevent an escalation of dangerous conflict.

May 6 – CoI reports it has “no conclusive findings” regarding the use of chemical weapons by any of the parties to the conflict.

May 7 – UNSG calls for the immediate release of four UN peacekeepers kidnapped by armed rebels in the Golan Heights.

May 7 – US Secretary of State John Kerry announces that the US and Russia will hold a joint peace conference in Geneva by the end of the month aimed at finding a political solution to the conflict.

May 8 – UNSG and JSE Brahimi together welcome the statements made by Russia and the US to work together to achieve a political solution and hold a joint peace conference.

May 10 – UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay calls upon the international community to avoid becoming “numb to the atrocious killing of civilians” and ensure those responsible for human rights violations are held accountable.

May 11 – UNSG condemns a May 11 car bombing – suspected to be related to the Syrian conflict – in Turkey that resulted in the deaths of at least 46 people.

May 12 – EU pledges an additional €65 million in humanitarian aid.

May 13 – UNSC issues a Press Statement strongly condemning the May 11 car bombing in Turkey.

May 13 – ICRC appeals for $65.2 million in order to step up its response to meet the demands of the worsening humanitarian situation.
**May 14** – UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay urges the Syrian armed opposition to do everything possible to halt the commission of war crimes and repeats her call to the UNSC to refer the situation in Syria to the ICC.

**May 15** – UNGA adopts a resolution (with 107 in favor, 12 against, and 59 abstentions) expressing grave concern at the escalation of violence, condemning the “rapidly increasing death toll,” calling upon the Syrian authorities to meet their responsibility to protect the population, and supporting a political transition through the establishment of the SOC.

**May 16** – UNSC releases a Press Statement condemning the May 15 detention of three personnel from the UN Truce Supervision Organization by armed rebels, as well as the kidnapping of UN peacekeepers in the Golan Heights earlier in the month.

**May 17** – UNHCR reports the number of registered Syrian refugees at over 1.5 million.

**May 17** – UNSG urges Russia and the US to hold the proposed international conference on Syria as soon as possible.

**May 21** – UNHCR reports the number of people in need of assistance as a result of the conflict stands at 8.3 million, or about 38% of Syria’s population.

**May 23** – “Friends of Syria” meet in Amman, Jordon, pledging to increase support to the opposition and calling upon Iran and Hezbollah to immediately withdraw their fighters aiding government forces within Syria. The Friends also warn of “severe consequences” should the Syrian government use chemical weapons.

**May 23-25** – SOC meets in Istanbul to discuss the proposed US-Russia peace talks, as well as to elect a new president.

**May 24** – UNHCR calls upon Syria’s neighboring countries to keep open all borders to fleeing Syrians, and calls upon all parties to the conflict to protect civilians.

**May 26** – UNSG expresses concern over intense fighting, with an increased participation by fighters from Hezbollah, as well of the risk of the conflict spilling over into Lebanon.

**May 27** – EU foreign ministers meet in Brussels and fail to agree on an extension of the EU’s arms embargo on Syria, allowing for the possibility of EU member states to provide arms to Syrian rebels in the future.

**May 27** – UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay opens the 23rd session of the HRC, urging the international community to stop the escalating bloodshed and suffering, and stressing that the situation has become “an intolerable affront to the human conscience.”

**May 29** – HRC passes a resolution condemning the systematic gross violations of human rights by government and affiliated forces, including the use of heavy weapons against civilians, particularly in al-Qusayr. The resolution demands the Syrian authorities allow unimpeded humanitarian access and meet their responsibility to protect the Syrian population.
May 31 – SOC gives membership to 15 members of the FSA.

June 1 – UNSG urges all sides to avoid civilian casualties and reminds the Syrian government of its Responsibility to Protect civilians.

June 1 – UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay and the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, release a joint statement expressing alarm at the desperate situation in al-Qusayr and reminding all parties of their obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law to protect civilians.

June 4 – CoI releases an updated report on the situation in Syria, saying the conflict has reached new levels of brutality, with the systematic imposition of sieges, the use of chemical agents and forcible displacement. The CoI reports that crimes against humanity have become a “daily reality” and urges against the supply of weapons to any party, as the increased availability of weapons has a “human cost.”

June 4 – EU member states commit to not supplying weapons to the Syrian opposition until at least August 1.

June 5 – US and Russian negotiators meet with JSE Brahimi and UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, to discuss the planned US-Russia peace conference in Geneva. JSE Brahimi later announces that the conference will not take place in June, calling the delay “embarrassing.”

June 5 – ICRC urges all sides to comply with international humanitarian law, saying, “Little regard is being paid to the population as the hostilities intensify. Attacks are causing a very high number of casualties amongst civilians.”

June 7 – UNSC issues a Press Statement expressing grave concern about the humanitarian impact of recent heavy fighting in Al-Qusayr and calls upon the Syrian government to allow immediate humanitarian assistance for civilians trapped by fighting.

June 7 – UN launches a $4.4 billion humanitarian appeal – the largest in UN history – to assist the growing number of people suffering the effects of the conflict.

June 8 – Rebel commander Gen. Salim Idris says the Syrian opposition will not attend the Geneva peace conference unless rebels receive arms and ammunition to change the balance of power on the ground.

June 10 – Secretary-General of the OIC Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu says the “catastrophic” regional consequences of the conflict could take “decades to remedy.”

June 13 – Human Rights Data Analysis Group releases a new report commissioned by the HRC, which puts the Syrian death toll at over 93,000 and says that at least 5,000 people have been killed each month between July 2012 and April 2013.

June 13 – US President Obama authorizes his administration to provide arms to Syrian rebels, saying the White House confirmed the use of chemicals weapons.
June 14 – HRC passes a resolution condemning all massacres and violence taking place, especially against civilians. The resolution demands that the Syrian authorities cooperate fully with the CoI, as well as to meet their responsibility to protect the Syrian population.

June 14 – UNSG reiterates his call on the Syrian authorities to allow the UN chemical weapons team into the country.

June 17-18 – G8 Summit meets in Northern Ireland. In the final communique, G8 leaders reaffirm their commitment to a political solution and express support for the Geneva peace conference.

June 18 – UNHCR says that with 3.5 million projected refugees by the end of the year, the pressure on Syria’s neighbors has become “overwhelming,” and warns of the increasing risk of the conflict spilling over.

June 20 – UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres visits the Syria-Jordan border and calls upon the international community to overcome their divisions and come together to do everything possible to stop “the cascade of death and destruction.”

June 20 – Lebanese President Michel Suleiman calls on Hezbollah to pull its fighters out of Syria for the sake of Lebanon’s stability.

June 24 – EU pledges an additional €400 million in humanitarian assistance to Syria.

June 25 – JSE Brahimi reports another delay for the Geneva peace conference, saying it is unlikely to be held in July.

June 26 – SOHR reports the Syrian death toll at over 100,000 people.

June 30 – GCC and EU foreign ministers meeting in Bahrain reiterate the urgency of finding a political settlement to the conflict and pledge to “spare no effort” in ensuring that the Geneva peace conference is successful. GCC member-states call for urgent UNSC action to prevent a “massacre” in Homs, under siege by government forces.

July 1 – UNSG says the Geneva peace conference offers the best chance to resolve the Syria crisis and the international community must do everything possible to ensure the conference takes place as soon as possible.

July 2 – UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Valerie Amos calls for greater international support for the more than half a million Syrian refugees in Lebanon, saying that by the end of 2013, refugees could make up 20% of Lebanon’s population.

July 2 – UNSG renews his call on all parties to the Syrian conflict to avoid civilian casualties and allow immediate humanitarian access.

July 6 – SOC elects Ahmad Jarba as its new president.

July 8 – SASG on the Prevention of Genocide Adama Dieng releases a statement expressing concern over the escalating use of sectarian rhetoric by political and religious leaders in the Middle
East region, saying it may exploit religious tensions, incite violence, and lead to large scale atrocities.

**July 8 – SOC Interim Prime Minister** Ghassan Hitto resigns, citing his inability to form an interim government.

**July 9 – UNSC** issues a [Press Statement](#) condemning a July 9 terrorist attack in Beirut and appealing to all Lebanese people to preserve national unity and refrain from any involvement in the Syrian crisis.

**July 9 – UNSG** appeals to all parties to stop fighting during the month of Ramadan “for the sake of the Syrian people.”

**July 10 – UNSC** issues a [Presidential Statement](#) expressing concern over the impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon’s stability.

**July 12 – UNHCR** appeals to Egypt and all other governments to admit and protect all Syrians seeking refuge in their country after Egyptian authorities impose new restrictions on Syrian refugees.

**July 12 – Turkish and Iranian Foreign Ministers** Ahmet Davutoglu and Ali Akbar Salehi jointly appeal for a ceasefire in Syria during the month of Ramadan.

**July 12 – UN High Commissioner for Human Rights** Navi Pillay and UN [Humanitarian and Emergency Relief Coordinator](#) Valerie Amos release a joint statement expressing alarm at the escalating violence in Homs and Aleppo and calling upon all parties to protect civilians.

**July 14 – FSA** calls an assassination of a senior FSA commander by al-Qaeda linked militants an act of war and vows to “wipe the floor” with them.

**July 16 – UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative in Iraq**, Martin Kobler, briefs the UNSC, saying the battlefields of Iraq and Syria are merging, with an increasing presence of Iraqi armed groups in Syria.

**July 16 – Senior UN officials** Valerie Amos, Antonio Guterres, and Ivan Simonović brief the UNSC on the situation in Syria, expressing extreme concern about the deepening violence, grave human rights violations, worsening humanitarian situation, and the massive refugee crisis, calling upon the international community to come together and stop the bloodshed.

**July 17 – Turkish Foreign Minister** Ahmet Davutoglu calls upon the UNSC to “fulfill the requirements of being the [UNSC]” and stop the “cruel massacre in Syria.”

**July 18 – Britain’s Chief of the Defence Staff**, General Sir David Richards, says the imposition of a no-fly zone in Syria would have an insufficient material impact, while also leading to war.

**July 18 – UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict** Leila Zerrougui concludes a 3-day visit to Syria and says children in Syria are suffering arbitrary arrest and detention, the denial of education, and are being used as soldiers.
July 22 – EU designates the military wing of Hezbollah as a terrorist organization, freezing all EU funds linked to it.

July 24 – Head of the UN chemical weapons investigation team Åke Sellström arrives in Syria to meet with government officials with the aim of securing permission to begin the investigation.

July 25 – UNSG meets with US Secretary of State Kerry for talks on Syria. The UNSG reports that the conflict’s death toll exceeds 100,000 and says, “Military and violent actions must be stopped by all the parties and it is thus imperative to have a peace conference in Geneva as soon as possible.”

July 26 – UNSC holds its first meeting with the SOC to discuss key issues related to the crisis.

July 29 – Head of the CoI Paulo Pinheiro briefs the UNGA, reporting that 4.5 million people have been displaced inside Syria, where indiscriminate shelling and aerial bombardments continue daily. He calls upon the international community to act decisively and demand a political solution to the conflict.

July 30 – WFP warns that increasing violence in Homs and Damascus is making many areas inaccessible, which will hamper the organization’s efforts to aid 3 million people inside Syria.

Aug 2 – High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay urges an independent investigation into the possible commission of war crimes by armed opposition groups who allegedly executed dozens of captured government soldiers in Aleppo.

Aug 2 – UN Humanitarian and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos expresses her frustration over the continued failure by parties to the conflict to protect civilians, calling for an end to the violence and for all parties to respect their obligations under international law.

Aug 4 – SOC calls upon the UN to probe “numerous massacres” committed by government forces during Ramadan, and says it will cooperate in any independent investigation into alleged crimes committed by opposition forces.

Aug 4 – President of Iran, Hasan Rouhani, says Iran will strengthen its relations with Syria “and will stand by it in facing all challenges.”

Aug 4 – Switzerland pledges an additional 20 million Swiss francs in humanitarian aid.

Aug 7 – US Government pledges an additional $195 million in food and humanitarian aid to mark the end of Ramadan.

Aug 7 – Saudi Arabia offers economic incentives to Russia, reportedly including the purchase of $15 billion of Russian weapons, in exchange for Russia’s scaled back support to President Assad.

Aug 9 – UNSG meets with Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov, stressing the need for a political solution to the conflict and to renew momentum behind the Geneva II Syria conference.
Aug 12 – UN chemical weapons investigation team, set to arrive in Syria today, announces postponement of trip until further notice as a result of logistical and technical complications.

Aug 12 – Head of the SOC Ahmed al-Jarba calls for rebel groups to unify under the command of the FSA, saying “the rules of the game have changed” since Hezbollah became involved.

Aug 14 – UNSG reports that the Syrian government is now cooperating with the UN on the terms of the chemical weapons investigation, and the team’s departure is “now imminent.”

Aug 15 – US Secretary of State John Kerry meets with Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari, saying Iraq must do more to stop weapons from flowing into and out of Syria.

Aug 15 – UNSC issues a Press Statement condemning a car bomb attack in Beirut that killed at least 18 people, and urges all Lebanese parties to refrain from involvement in the Syrian crisis.

Aug 16 – UNHCR reports the number of Syrian refugees at over 1.9 million, saying that two-thirds of them have fled in 2013 alone.

Aug 18 – UN chemical weapons team arrives in Syria to begin investigation.

Aug 20 – UNHCR reports that nearly 30,000 Syrian refugees entered into northern Iraq within the last four days, with thousands more waiting to enter.

Aug 21 – SOC calls upon the UNSC to hold an emergency session after reports emerge that hundreds of civilians were killed in a possible chemical weapons attack in several towns around Ghouta, Damascus. Opposition activists say the Syrian government fired chemical-tipped weapons into the areas, causing the deaths of around 1,100 people.

Aug 21 – UNSC holds an emergency meeting on the chemical weapons attacks, but fail to agree on the text of a press statement.

Aug 22 – UNSG sends a formal request to the Syrian government to grant UN chemical weapons investigators, already in the country, access to the sites of the August 21 attacks.

Aug 22 – UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay condemns the August 21 killing of hundreds of civilians in Damascus, saying the use of chemical weapons is a flagrant contravention of international law, and calling for an immediate investigation.

Aug 23 – UNICEF reports that one million of the now two million Syrian refugees are children.

Aug 23 – SASGs on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect release a statement condemning the killing of hundreds of civilians in the alleged chemical weapons attack, saying the use of chemical weapons is a serious violation of international law and a war crime. The Special Advisers remind the international community of its Responsibility to Protect populations from such crimes and call for an immediate investigation into the events.

Aug 23 – UNSC delivers a press statement strongly condemning August 23 terrorist attacks in Tripoli, Lebanon, which killed at least 42 people and wounded over 400, and urges all parties in Lebanon to refrain from involvement in the Syrian crisis.
Aug 24 – MSF reports treating 3600 patients displaying neurotoxic symptoms on August 21, of whom 355 died.

Aug 25 – UNSG reports that the Syrian government has affirmed it will grant access to the UN chemical weapons team to sites around Damascus where chemical weapons were allegedly used.

Aug 26 – UN announces that the chemical weapons team was targeted by sniper fire from an unidentified source, destroying one of the vehicles of the convoy.

Aug 26 – UN Committee on the Rights of Child condemns the chemical weapons attack, saying the atrocity is a “shocking example of how children’s rights are being violated as the Syrian conflict deepens,” and calling upon all parties to stop targeting civilians.

Aug 27 – UNHCR and WFP appeal to Syria’s neighbors to keep their borders open as a growing number of Syrians flee the conflict.

Aug 27 – JSE Brahimi reaffirms his support for a political solution to the conflict and says he is confident that the Geneva II conference will still take place at some point, with his team working to bring all negotiating parties to the table.

Aug 27 – UN chemical weapons investigators postpone their investigation by one day as a result of security concerns following the previous day’s attack on their convoy.

Aug 28 – JSE Brahimi holds a press conference in Geneva, stressing the need for UNSC authorization for any military action in Syria, as well as the need for continued political efforts to find a negotiated – not military – solution to the conflict.

Aug 28 – OIC condemns the killing of civilians in the 21 August chemical weapons attack and calls upon the UNSC to take a unified position against this crime and hold the Syrian government accountable, and take decisive action to preserve international security and stability.

Aug 28 – UK drafts a resolution condemning chemical weapons use in Syria and requesting the UNSC to authorize measure to protect civilians. The UNSC fails to reach an agreement on the resolution.

Aug 28 – UNSG and head of the OPCW call upon all parties to fully cooperate with the UN chemical weapons investigation team. The UNSG says the team needs four days to conclude their investigation and asks that they are allowed to conclude their work and send a report to the UNSC.

Aug 28 – UNSG appeals to the UNSC to uphold its responsibilities under the UN Charter, find unity, and act on the situation in Syria. He expresses his opposition to further militarization of the conflict and calls for dialogue and a political solution.

Aug 29 – UK Parliament vetoes a government motion to authorize military action against Syria in response to the chemical weapons attack.
Aug 29 – UNSG reports that the UN chemical weapons team will leave Syria by August 31 and will share the information they have collected with the UNSC.

Aug 30 – White House releases its assessment of the Syrian government’s use of chemical weapons, saying it assesses with high confidence that the government is responsible for the attacks, which killed 1429 people, including at least 426 children.

Aug 31 – US President Obama says he will seek congressional authorization for strikes in Syria.

Aug 31 – UN chemical weapons team leaves Syria. The OPCW says that a full analysis of the evidence collected by the team could take up to three weeks.

Aug 31 – SOHR reports 110,371 total deaths since the beginning of the uprising.

Sept 1 – US Secretary of State Kerry says that samples from first responders in Damascus have tested positive for signs of sarin gas exposure.

Sept 1 – UNSG says that samples collected by the UN chemical weapons team will be sent to laboratories on September 2.

Sept 1 – Jordan reiterates its call for a political solution to the crisis, saying it will continue to hold a neutral stance but remains ready to protect its borders and security.

Sept 1 – LAS meets in Cairo and blames the Syrian government for the chemical weapons attack but does not endorse military action. LAS Secretary-General Elaraby says a military option is “out of the question,” and calls upon the UN and international community to “assume their responsibilities in line with the UN Charter and international law by taking the necessary deterrent measures.”

Sept 2 – NATO Secretary-General Rasmussen calls for a firm response to the use of chemical weapons, saying, “NATO’s position is clear” but that it will be up to individual member-states to determine what specific military response they might take.

Sept 2 – China’s foreign ministry says Beijing is gravely concerned about the prospect of unilateral military action against Syria and has backed the call to allow the UN chemical weapons investigators to first share their findings.

Sept 2 – Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov rejects the evidence presented by the White House of the Syrian government’s responsibility for the attacks, calling it “absolutely unconvincing.”

Sept 2 – France releases its intelligence assessment on the chemical weapons attack, blaming the Syrian government for the “massive and coordinated” chemical weapons attack.

Sept 3 – UNHCR reports the number of Syrian refugees at over 2 million, calling the situation a “disgraceful humanitarian calamity with suffering and displacement unparalleled in recent history.”

Sept 3 – UNSG reports that the UN chemical weapons team is working urgently to prepare its analysis and that it will return soon to Syria to complete its investigation. He reiterates his
condemnation of the use of chemical weapons, calling it “an outrageous war crime,” and calls upon the UNSC to “unite and develop an appropriate response.”

**Sept 4 – US Senate Foreign Relations Committee** approves a resolution authorizing the limited use of US military force in Syria to respond to the chemical weapons attack.

**Sept 4 – UNHCR and governments of Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey** release a statement calling upon the international community to overcome differences in order to stop the fighting in Syria and appealing for expanded support and assistance to help respond to the massive humanitarian crisis.

**Sept 5 – UNSG**, speaking at the G20 summit, says that any use of chemical weapons under any circumstances is a crime against humanity that cannot go unpunished, but action taken must be within the framework of the UN Charter.

**Sept 6 – JSE Brahimi** meets with Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov, saying he has been working hard with the Russians and Americans to prepare for the Geneva II peace conference, which is “now in danger because of the [chemical weapons attack] of 21 August.” He reiterates that the UNSC must authorize the use of force in Syria.

**Sept 6 – French President** Holland says that France will await the conclusions of the UN chemical weapons inspectors and the US Congress vote on military strikes before deciding on any action.

**Sept 6 – UNSG** urges G20 leaders to avoid further militarization of the conflict and renew efforts to convene the Geneva II peace conference. He says the world must do everything possible to stop the suffering of the Syrian people and that all parties must uphold their obligations to protect civilians.

**Sept 6 – Australia, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Turkey, UK and US** release a joint statement on the margins of the G20 meeting, strongly condemning the use of chemical weapons in Syria and calling for a “strong international response” and for the perpetrators to be held accountable, endorsing a strong UNSC resolution.

**Sept 6 – US State Department** orders non-emergency US personnel out of Lebanon, citing “current tensions in the region and potential threats to US government facilities.”

**Sept 9 – Russia** calls upon the Syrian government to put its chemical weapons stockpiles under international control and for their subsequent destruction.

**Sept 9 – UN High Commissioner for Human Rights** Navi Pillay opens the 24th session of the HRC, saying the suffering of Syria’s population has reached “unimaginable levels” and that the international community is very late to take action to halt the crisis, calling upon the international community to find a way to bring warring parties to the negotiating table and halt the bloodshed.

**Sept 10 – GCC Ministers** meet in Jeddah to discuss measures against Syria.

**Sept 10 – US President** Obama delivers a national address, saying that he has asked Congress to postpone a vote authorizing targeted air strikes in Syria following a proposal made by the Russian government to push Assad into relinquishing his supply of chemical weapons.
Sept 10 – Georgia, Guatemala, Kuwait, Malta, Montenegro, Panama, Poland, and Portugal sign on to the joint statement on Syria that was issued on September 6 on the sidelines of the G20.

Sept 11 – CoI releases an updated report on Syria, saying government and pro-government forces have continued to conduct massacres and widespread attacks on the civilian population, committing crimes against humanity and war crimes, while anti-government armed groups have committed war crimes. The CoI reiterates that there is no military solution to the conflict. In a press release, the CoI calls upon the UNSC to be engaged in the protection of civilians in Syria.

Sept 12 – UK Foreign Secretary Hague briefs UK Parliament, saying the country is committed to a political solution and continues to provide non-lethal assistance to the Syrian opposition.

Sept 12 – President Assad signs a legislative decree providing for Syria’s accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention, according to a statement by the UNSG.

Sept 12 – 14 – US Secretary of State and Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov meet in Geneva for talks hosted by JSE Brahimi on a political solution to the crisis.

Sept 13 – France, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan meet in Paris and “agreed on the need to strengthen international support for the democratic opposition to allow it to face attacks by the regime,” according to a statement by the French government.

Sept 13 – UN Humanitarian Coordinator Valerie Amos calls upon all sides in the conflict to agree to a pause in fighting in order for relief agencies to gain immediate and unhindered access to civilians trapped by intense fighting, reporting that over a half a million people remain trapped in Rural Damascus.

Sept 14 – Russia and US agree to a Framework for Elimination of Syrian Chemical Weapons, which requires the complete elimination of Syria’s chemical weapons material and equipment within the first half of 2014 and a UNSC resolution authorizing Chapter VII measures in the event of Syria’s non-compliance.

Sept 14 – SOC elects Ahmad Tumeh as new provisional prime minister, replacing Ghassan Hitto, who resigned in July.

Sept 16 – France, UK and US agree at three-way Paris talks to seek a “strong and robust” UNSC resolution that sets binding deadlines for the removal of Syria’s chemical weapons.

Sept 16 – HRC holds an interactive dialogue on Syria, with states expressing the need for the international community to speak in a unified voice against the deplorable human rights violations and humanitarian situation in Syria.

Sept 16 – UN releases the report of the chemical weapons investigation. UNSC holds closed consultations on the report.

Sept 17 – NATO-Russia Council convenes to discuss Syria, calling upon the UNSC to ensure the implementation of the framework for the elimination of Syrian chemical weapons and upon the international community to hold accountable those responsible for their use.
Sept 18 – UNSC Permanent five members discuss a resolution backing the US-Russia plan to destroy Syria’s chemical weapons but fail to reach an agreement.

Sept 19 – NATO Secretary-General Rasmussen implicates the Syrian government for the chemical weapons attack and says that all military options must remain on the table in order to keep momentum on the political process.

Sept 19 – Iranian President Hassan Rohhani says that his government is ready to help facilitate dialogue between the Syrian government and the opposition.

Sept 19 – French President Hollande suggests that France, with “a number of other countries,” may arm the rebels within a controlled framework to prevent arms from going to jihadists.

Sept 20 – Syria produces an inventory of its chemical weapons to the OPCW.

Sept 22 – UNSG and LAS Secretary-General Nabil Elaraby reiterate the need for a political solution to the conflict and to address the acute humanitarian needs.

Sept 23 – UNICEF calls for greater international efforts to ensure humanitarian access to civilians trapped in Syria in order to safeguard the lives of thousands of children.

Sept 24 – HRC adopts a resolution condemning the ongoing violence and massacres of civilians, condemning the chemical weapons use of August 21, and demanding that the Syrian authorities facilitate unhindered and immediate humanitarian access.

Sept 24-30 – UNGA opens 68th session, with 149 states raising the issue of Syria in their statements during the General Debate.

Sept 25 – UN chemical weapons team returns to Syria to continue investigation of 14 allegations of chemical weapons use.

Sept 27 – OPWC adopts a decision outlining the terms for the complete destruction of Syria’s chemical weapons by mid-2014.

Sept 27 – UNSC unanimously adopts a resolution (Resolution 2118) enabling the expeditious destruction of Syria's chemical weapons stockpile according to the terms and procedures established by the OPCW, and agreeing that in the event of non-compliance the UNSC would consider Chapter VII measures.

Sept 29 – UNSG urges SOC to agree on a united delegation for Geneva II.

Sept 30 – UNHCR calls upon Syria’s neighbors to keep borders open and provide protection for those fleeing the conflict.

Oct 2 – UNSC adopts a Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2013/15) condemning widespread violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by the Syrian authorities and abuses committed by armed groups; condemning the denial of humanitarian access; calling upon the Syrian authorities to facilitate the expansion of cross-border humanitarian access; calling upon all parties to
protect civilians; and stressing the need to end impunity for violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights.

**Oct 2** – UNSG welcomes the UNSC Presidential Statement. UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Valerie Amos also welcomes the Statement and reiterates the call for all parties to stop targeting civilians and to facilitate the provision of humanitarian aid. She calls upon the international community to find a “lasting political solution” to the crisis.

**Oct 6** – JSE Brahimi urges all parties to the conflict to engage in peace talks without preconditions.

**Oct 6** – Joint UN and international chemical weapons team announces that the process of dismantling and destroying Syria’s chemical weapons production program has begun.

**Oct 10** – UNSC meets in closed consultations to discuss the UNSG’s recommendations on how to destroy Syria’s chemical weapons.

**Oct 10** – UNICEF reports that half of the 2.1 million Syrian refugees are children, many of whom are vulnerable to exploitation, including early marriage, domestic violence and child labor.

**Oct 10** – NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen says there is no military solution to the Syrian crisis and that he sees no further role for NATO in Syria.

**Oct 10** – UNSC backs the UNSG’s plan to eradicate Syria’s chemical weapons and approves a joint UN-OPCW mission to the country.

**Oct 13** – SNC president George Sabra says the SNC will not attend the Geneva II conference and will leave the SOC if it participates.

**Oct 14** – Syria’s accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention enters into force.

**Oct 16** – OPCW-UN Joint Mission in Syria is established, headed by Sigrid Kaag, to oversee the “timely elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme in the safes and most secure manner possible.”

**Oct 18** – UNHCR urges all countries to keep their borders open to Syrian refugees and enable their safe passage, amid a growing number of refugees seeking safety in Europe.

**Oct 19** – UN Humanitarian and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos calls for a ceasefire and immediate safe passage for civilians trapped in rural Damascus.

**Oct 21** – EU Foreign Ministers meet in Luxembourg to discuss the issue of Syria’s chemical weapons, political developments, and the humanitarian crisis.

**Oct 22** – Friends of Syria Core Group (“London 11”) meet in London with opposition representatives to discuss preparations for Geneva II. They call for the establishment of a transitional Syrian government and say Assad can have “no role” in Syria’s future.
Oct 24 – **Turkish Foreign Minister** Ahmet Davutoglu expresses Turkey’s “deep disappointment and frustration” over the “absence of a proper reaction by the international community” to the humanitarian situation in Syria.

Oct 25 – **UN Humanitarian and Emergency Relief Coordinator** Valerie Amos briefs the UNSC, calling upon the body to show leadership and ensure cooperation of humanitarian assistance to civilians in Syria.

Oct 30 – **JSE Brahimi** meets with President Assad in Damascus.

Oct 31 – **OPCW-UN Joint Mission in Syria** reports Syria’s completion of the functional destruction of all chemical weapons production facilities.

Nov 1 – **JSE Brahimi** says both the Syrian government and the opposition must be represented at Geneva II and that the Geneva Communique “enables the Syrian brothers to overcome the crisis and opens the way toward building their new republic.”

Nov 5 – **JSE Brahimi** meets with Russian diplomats in Geneva to discuss plans for Geneva II.

Nov 7 – **OPCW** reports that all but one of Syria’s 23 reported chemical weapon’s sites has been verified.

Nov 10 – **SOC** meets in Istanbul and agrees to participate in Geneva II if a number of conditions are met, including that Assad has “no role in the transitional period and the future of Syria.”

Nov 16 – **OPCW** approves a detailed plan of destruction to eliminate Syria’s chemical weapons by June 30, 2014.

Nov 18 – **Syrian government** delegation meets Russian officials to discuss plans for Geneva II.

Nov 19 – **UNGA Third Committee** adopts a resolution (123 in favor, 13 against, 46 abstentions) condemning ongoing violence in Syria, including the use of chemical weapons by the Syrian government, and calls upon the government to facilitate immediate and unhindered cross-border humanitarian access.

Nov 19 – **UNHCR** reports an influx of 6,000 refugees to Lebanon in the last several days.

Nov 21 – **Saudi Arabia** advises its citizens in Lebanon to leave after twin suicide bombings killed 25 people.

Nov 22 – Seven major Islamist rebel groups merge to form the “Islamic Front” military opposition group aimed replacing Assad’s regime with an Islamic state.

Nov 22 – **JSE Brahimi** meets with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad to discuss plans for Geneva II.

Nov 22 – **UNHCR** estimates that 18,000 Syrians crossed into Lebanon in the last week, triggered by intense fighting.
Nov 25 – Oxford Research Group releases a report detailing the conflict’s effects on children, reporting the deaths of 11,420 children by the end of August 2013, most killed by explosive weapons.

Nov 25 – UNSG announces that Geneva II will begin on 22 January 2014, saying the goal is the “full implementation of the Geneva Communique of 30 June 2012, including the establishment, based on mutual consent, of a transitional governing body with full executive powers.”

Nov 26 – SOC chief Jarba says the body will take full possession of Syria’s seat on the LAS now that it has formed a provisional government.

Nov 26 – FSA commander Salim Idriss says the FSA will not attend Geneva II if it allows any possibility of Assad remaining in power.

Nov 27 – Foreign Ministers of Iran and Turkey jointly call for a ceasefire in Syria ahead of Geneva II.

Nov 27 – Syrian government says President Assad will remain in office despite opposition demands that he step down.

Nov 28 – UNHCR calls upon European and Gulf Arab states to host Syrian refugees, reporting nearly 3 million refugees in neighboring countries, 2.3 million of whom are registered.

Dec 2 – High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay says the CoI has found “massive evidence” of war crimes and crimes against humanity and that “evidence implicates responsibility at the highest level of government, including the head of state.”

Dec 3 – UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos briefs the UNSC, saying there has been no progress on the protection of civilians or cross-border humanitarian access.

Dec 6 – UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos, Director-General of WHO, Margaret Chan, and the Executive Director of UNICEF, Anthony Lake, strongly condemn attacks on health and other civilian facilities in Syria and call upon all parties to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect civilians, health facilities and health professionals, and to permit the supply of humanitarian aid.

Dec 9 – 1,000 days of conflict

Dec 9 – Syrian government calls upon the UNSC “to take the necessary measure to put an end to the unprecedented actions of the Saudi regime,” saying Saudi Arabia is assisting “terrorist groups in Syria.”

Dec 9 – SASG on Genocide Prevention calls Syria one of the “stark reminders of our limitations and our inability to undertake robust, timely action to protect populations from atrocity crimes.”

Dec 10 – UNHCR announces an early start to its winter program amid forecasts of “one of the harshest [winters] in 100 years” and that for the first time it will begin airlifting aid to Syria from Iraq.
Dec 11 – US and Britain suspend all non-lethal aid FSA forces in northern Syria after forces affiliated with the Islamic Front seize the headquarters and weapons warehouses of the Syrian Military Council.

Dec 12 – OPCW releases its final report on the use of chemical weapons in Syria, finding “clear and convincing evidence” of Sarin gas attacks against civilians. The OPCW was unable to assign responsibility to any party for their use, however.

Dec 13 – UNSG calls upon the international community to hold accountable those responsible for chemical weapons use in Syria.

Dec 13 – OHCHR expresses alarm over rise in abductions and enforced disappearances in Syria and calls upon the government and armed groups to respect their obligations under international law to ensure that all civilians are protected.

Dec 16 – UNHCR appeals to donors for a record $6.5 billion for Syria operations in 2014.

Dec 17 – UN confirms that Geneva II will begin on January 22 in Montreux, Switzerland.

Dec 18 – EU pledges a total of €147 million to three UN agencies to deliver vitally needed aid to people directly affected by the Syrian crisis.

Dec 18 – EU, OCHA, WFP, UNHCR, and UNICEF release a joint statement calling upon the international community to increase funding for humanitarian aid, calling the conflict “the greatest humanitarian tragedy of our times.” They further call upon all parties to ensure the protection of civilians and to ensure unimpeded humanitarian access.

Dec 18 – UNSC extends the mandate of UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights for another six months and condemn fighting on the Syrian side of the area of separation.

Dec 19 – CoI releases a report on enforced disappearances in Syria, reporting that disappearances are being committed by government forces on a wide scale throughout the country “as part of a campaign of intimidation and as a tactic of war.”

Dec 20 – JSE Brahimi announces the invitation of over 30 nations to Geneva II, saying there is no agreement yet on whether Iran will be invited.

Dec 22 – ICRC reports that “at least half a million people have been wounded across [Syria] and millions remain displaced and tens of thousands detained.”

Dec 23 – UNSG says preparations are on track to convene Geneva II on 22 January. He calls on all sides to allow humanitarian access and reduce the “horrific violence,” and condemns the government’s use of barrel bombs.

Dec 24 – US condemns a week of Syrian government missile and barrel bomb attacks on civilians in Aleppo which killed over 300 people and calls upon Syria to do more to facilitate the safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance.
Dec 25 – Syrian forces and FSA fighters agree to a 48-hour ceasefire in a Damascus suburb to allow food to reach starving residents, however the truce breaks down the next day.

Dec 26 – UNSG condemns the “continued and indiscriminate use of heavy weapons and mortar shelling against areas with civilian population” and the use of barrel bombs by Syrian forces. He calls upon all parties to adhere to IHL and protect civilians.

Dec 27 – UNSC condemns a terrorist attack in Beirut that killed former Lebanese Minister M. Mohammed Chatah and at least four other people, and calls upon all Lebanese parties to refrain from involvement in the Syrian crisis.

Dec 28 – OPCW reports that the 31 December deadline for removing “the most critical” of Syria’s chemical weapons will not be met due to a number of factors, “not the least the continuing volatility in overall security conditions.”

Dec 29 – SOHR reports 517 deaths, including 151 children and 46 women, since 15 December as a result of the government’s barrel bomb campaign on Aleppo.

Dec 30 – Saudi Arabia pledges $3 billion to Lebanon's army to combat terrorism threats from Hezbollah.

Dec 31 – UN Humanitarian Chief Valerie Amos strongly condemns the attacks against civilians, particularly in Aleppo by government barrel bombs and mortar shelling. She reminds all parties of their IHL obligations and their responsibility to ensure the protection of civilians.

Dec 31 – SOHR reports the death toll at more than 130,000, over 46,000 of whom are civilians.
2014:

Jan 2 – UNSC **condemns** a Beirut car bomb attack, the second in less than one week, that killed at least five people and urges Lebanon’s disassociation from the Syrian crisis.

Jan 3 – Fierce clashes between ISIL and FSA fighters erupts in Aleppo’s western countryside.

Jan 4 – SNC says the Assad regime has made no commitment to previously agreed terms of Geneva II and that it will not attend.

Jan 5 – SOC reelects Ahmad Jarba as its leader for a second 6-month term.

Jan 6 – UNSG sends invitations to Syrian and international participants of Geneva II, saying that at the core of the conference is “the establishment of a transitional governing body based on mutual consent.”

Jan 7 – OPCW **reports** that the process of removing Syria’s most critical chemical weapons has begun, having been loaded onto a Danish commercial vessel that will sail to international waters.

Jan 7 – UN **appeals** for $1 billion to tend to the needs of the more than 4 million Syrian children who have been affected by the ongoing conflict.

Jan 8 – OHCHR says it can no longer verify the death toll and will leave the figure at 100,000, where it stood in late July.

Jan 9 – Russia blocks a UNSC statement condemning the Syrian government’s use of barrel bombs against civilian areas in Aleppo.

Jan 12 – “Friends of Syria” core group meets with SOC in Paris, **urging** the body to attend Geneva II.

Jan 12 – UN Humanitarian Coordinator Valerie Amos, following a one-day visit to Damascus, **highlights** the dire humanitarian situation affecting 9.3 million Syrians and the plight of civilians blocked from humanitarian aid by government and opposition forces. She calls upon the world to “do more.”

Jan 12 – SOHR reports the deaths of 697 people, including 100 civilians, after intense fighting between FSA and ISIL groups between Jan 3 and Jan 11.

Jan 13 – UN appeals for $6.5 billion ($2.3 billion for the 9.3 million people inside Syria and $4.2 billion for refugees) in aid for Syria, which it calls the “worst humanitarian crisis” in decades.

Jan 15 – At the Second International Humanitarian Pledging Conference on Syria, donors **pledge** over $2.4 billion, less than half of the $6.5 billion for which the UN has appealed.

Jan 16 – UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay **warns** Syrian armed opposition groups that executions and unlawful killings are violations of IHL and may amount to war crimes
amid reports of a “succession of mass executions in northern Syria” by hardline groups, particularly ISIL.

**Jan 17** – **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights** Navi Pillay **condemns** the repeated obstruction of aid to besieged populations in Syria’s Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp by government and anti-government forces, saying that starvation of civilians as a weapon of combat is a war crime.

**Jan 17** – **UNHCR and top officials from Turkey, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and Lebanon** jointly **call upon** the international community to boost solidarity with countries hosting the bulk of Syrian refugees and upon all parties to the conflict to end the suffering of the Syrian people.

**Jan 18** – **SOC** votes to attend Geneva II.

**Jan 19** – **UNSG** invites Iran to participate in Geneva II. **SOC** threatens to withdraw its attendance unless UNSG retracts Iran’s invitation.

**Jan 20** – **UNSG** rescinds Iran’s invitation to Geneva II.

**Jan 20** – **SNC** announces that it will quit the SOC in protest over the SOC’s decision to attend Geneva II and enter discussions with the Syrian regime.

**Jan 21** – **Coordination Committee of Special Procedures of the HRC** releases an **open letter** ahead of Geneva II, **urging** all parties to work towards a cessation of violence, putting the reestablishment of the rule of law and the protection of all Syrians at the forefront of their objectives.

**Jan 22** – Geneva II talks begin in Montreux, Switzerland, with the **UNSG**, JSE Brahimi, and top diplomats **making statements**.

**Jan 23** – **Fifteen top UN and humanitarian officials** **call** for greater protection for Syria’s children, saying that each child killed or hurt represents “yet another failure by the international community.”

**Jan 23** – **SOHR** reports nearly 1,400 deaths as a result of ongoing clashes between FSA and ISIL fighters which erupted on January 3.

**Jan 24** – **JSE Brahimi**, after three days of talks with all sides, **says** that face-to-face discussions between the Syrian government and opposition will be held the following day.

**Jan 26** – **JSE Brahimi** **reports** that the Syrian government has agreed to allow women and children in the besieged city of Homs to leave “immediately,” although the government has yet to agree to allow humanitarian aid to enter.

**Jan 27** – **OPCW** reports that a second shipment of chemical weapons materials has been removed from the country.
Jan 27 – US Congress approves the resumption of light arms to “moderate” Syrian rebels, including small arms and anti-tank rockets.

Jan 30 – HRW releases a new report accusing the Syrian government of “deliberately and unlawfully” razing thousands of homes in Damascus and Hama between July 2012 and July 2013 as a means of collective punishment against civilian populations considered to be supporting the opposition.

Jan 31 – JSE Brahimi reports “very slow progress” towards ending the conflict after the first round of Geneva II talks comes to a close, reporting that talks will resume on February 10.

Jan 31 – “London 11” says the Syrian regime is responsible for the “lack of real progress” in the first round of Geneva II negotiations, condemns ongoing violence against civilians, and calls upon the regime to endorse the original Geneva communique.

Feb 1 – SOHR puts the death toll at over 136,000 people, including 47,998 civilians, 7,300 of whom are children.

Feb 1 – UNSG calls for humanitarian access to hard-to-reach and besieged areas of Syria.

Feb 2 – UN Relief and Works Agency appeals for sustained humanitarian access to Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp, highlighting the “enormous humanitarian need and the desperation of a sizeable number of civilians.”

Feb 3 – JSE Brahimi’s Deputy Nasser al-Kidwa steps down from his position.

Feb 3 – UN releases a report assessing the impact of the war on children which finds that all parties have committed “grave violations against children” and that at least 10,000 children had been killed between March 2011 and November 2013. According to the report, children have been tortured and raped in government detention, used as human shields, and recruited to fight with the opposition.

Feb 5 – US Secretary of State John Kerry condemned the “latest barbaric act of the Syrian regime” as the SOHR reports that over 150 people were killed after four days of resumed government barrel bomb attacks on Aleppo.

Feb 6 – UN independent experts on the human rights to food, health, housing, water and sanitation, and on summary executions and torture, urge all parties to stop the use of civilian suffering as a method of war.

Feb 6 – Governor of Homs, Talal Barazi, confirms that a ceasefire agreement has been reached to allow the evacuation of some civilians from Homs and UN humanitarian convoys in.

Feb 7 – UN reports that the first 80 of 2,500 civilians trapped in Homs were successfully evacuated.

Feb 7 – Australia, Luxembourg, and Jordan present a draft resolution to the UNSC P5 demanding full access for humanitarian aid.
Feb 8 – **UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Syria** reports that UN teams are positioned to deliver aid to Homs as soon as the first group of civilians is evacuated. Later the **SARC** reports attacks against their convoys trying to enter Homs.

Feb 8 – **UN Humanitarian Coordinator** Valerie Amos expresses her deep disappointment that the three-day humanitarian pause in fighting was broken by attacks on aid convoys and calls upon all parties to ensure the protection of civilians and facilitate the safe delivery of aid.

Feb 10 – **Russia** and **China** skip UNSC negotiations on the humanitarian draft resolution.

Feb 10 – The **second round** of Geneva II talks begin, with JSE Brahimi meeting with representatives from both sides to determine the agenda.

Feb 10 – **WFP Executive Director** demands safe access to vulnerable civilians in all communities inside Syria, saying, “The last few days have been agonizing for people in the Old City of Homs and the humanitarian aid workers who have risked their lives to get food, medical supplies and other essentials into the City after more than 600 days of besiegement.”

Feb 11 – **JSE Brahimi** reports that sides are “not making much progress” at Geneva II but says “we owe it to the Syrian people to move a little bit faster than we are doing.”

Feb 12 – **UN reports** the total number of evacuated civilians from Homs to be more than 1,350, while a month’s worth of food for around 1,000 people was delivered to community leaders there.

Feb 13 – **JSE Brahimi** meets with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Gennady Gatilov and US Under-Secretary of State Wendy Sherman in Geneva, reporting that both officials promised to continue working with the UN to unblock the stalled peace talks.

Feb 14 – **UN Humanitarian Coordinator** Valerie Amos briefs the UNSC on the humanitarian situation, saying the October 2 Presidential Statement has not worked and the UNSC has a responsibility to act. Speaking to the press afterwards, she said that all parties were failing in their responsibility to protect civilians.

Feb 15 – **JSE Brahimi** publicly apologizes to the Syrian people for lack of progress at the close of the second round of Geneva II talks, admitting that “we haven’t helped them very much.”

Feb 17 – **FSA Supreme Military Council** replaces Brig Gen Salim Idris with Col Abd al-Ilah al-Bashir as chief of staff.

Feb 17 – Syria’s army and rebels agree to several local truces in key flashpoints around Damascus.

Feb 19 – **OHCHR** releases a report detailing the impact of government and opposition sieges across the country, under which some 240,000 remain trapped, saying they have “resulted in severe hardship, suffering and deaths of civilians.”

Feb 20 – **HRW** reports evidence that regime forces are using a new, more deadly type of cluster munition.
Feb 21 – UNICEF launches a record $2.2 billion appeal to aid nearly 60 million children in crisis situations across the world, the majority of whom the agency says are in Syria.

Feb 21 – UNHCR urges states to offer admission to 100,000 Syrian refugees in 2015 and 2016, reporting more than 2.4 million registered Syrian refugees in the region (932,000 in Lebanon; 547,000 in Jordan; 613,000 in Turkey; 223,000 in Iraq; 134,000 in Egypt).

Feb 22 – UNSC unanimously adopts Resolution 2139 demanding a halt to violence and attacks on civilians; calling upon all parties to protect civilians, and noting the government's primary responsibility to protect; and demanding that all parties, particularly the Syrian authorities, lift sieges and facilitate immediate humanitarian access and the delivery of aid to all areas of the country.

Feb 24 – Governor of Homs, Talal Barazi, reports that another 60 men and boys who were being held by Syrian authorities were released and evacuated from Homs, bringing the total to 330 males released, with 181 still being held.

Feb 24 – UN agencies and partner organizations sound an alarm on the war’s impact on children, calling upon all parties and those with influence to spare no efforts to bring an end to the conflict.

Feb 25 – UNGA holds an informal meeting on Syria, receiving briefings from OCHA, UNHCR, OHCHR, WHO, and the UNSG.

Feb 26 – Syrian government agrees to a new timetable to remove chemical weapons by late April.


Mar 3 – UNSG, opening the 25th session of the HRC, says “all parties have committed violations of human rights of unimaginable scope and character. Those States that are members of both the [HRC] and [UNSC] have a special duty to end this bloody war and ensure robust accountability.”

Mar 4 – Head of OPCW-UN joint mission, Sigrid Kaad, reports that the Syrian government has agreed to a 60-day timetable to accelerate efforts to ensure the removal of its chemicals, of which nearly one-third have been removed or destroyed inside the country.

Mar 5 – CoI releases its seventh report, finding that “siege warfare is employed in a context of egregious human rights and international humanitarian law violations,” where neither side fears being held accountable. The CoI says that the UNSC’s inaction “has provided the space for the proliferation of actors in Syria, each pursuing its own agenda and contributing to the radicalization and escalation of violence.

Mar 9 – LAS Secretary-General Nabil el-Araby says that while at the March 2012 Arab summit the LAS adopted the principle of granting Syria's seat to the opposition, the opposition “has not yet established its institutions and must take further steps in this regard.”

Mar 10 – UNICEF releases a new report that assesses the impact that the three years of Syria’s war has had on children, estimating that 5.5 million children have had their lives devastated, while up to 1 million children are living under siege within the country.
Mar 11 – UNHCR announces that Jordan’s third refugee camp, which will accommodate up to 130,000 people, will open on 30 April, with the number of people crossing the border up by 50% to an average of 600 daily.

Mar 12 – UNSG says that the international community cannot afford to lose focus or turn away from Syria, and called for renewed political efforts to end what is now, after three years of bloodshed, the biggest humanitarian and security crisis in the world.

Mar 13 – SOHR puts the death toll at over 146,000.

Mar 14 – UNSG briefs the UNGA on Syria and urges both the government and opposition to “show the leadership, vision and flexibility needed to end this conflict.” He appeals to Russia and the US to reenergize the political process and calls for an end to the flow of arms to opposition groups.

MARCH 15 – The conflict enters its fourth year.

Mar 17 – US names Daniel Rubinstein as the new ambassador to Syria, replacing Robert Ford.

Mar 18 – US suspends operations of the Syrian embassy in Washington, as well as honorary consulates in Michigan and Texas, requiring all personnel who are not legal residents of the country to leave.

Mar 20 – UN says that for the first time since the start of the conflict it was able to send an aid convoy via Turkey, which carried humanitarian assistance to northern Syria.

Mar 20 – Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances tells the HRC that the situation of enforced disappearances in Syria deserves “immediate UN” attention, as enforced disappearances are “being perpetrated as a systematic and widespread attack on civilians, thus qualifying as a crime against humanity.”

Mar 20 – OPCW-UN joint mission reports over half of Syria’s chemical weapons material has been removed from or destroyed in the country.

Mar 21 – UNHCR reports a sharp rise in asylum claims in 44 industrialized countries over the course of last year, driven primarily by the crisis in Syria.

Mar 24 – UNSG presents his first report to the UNSC on the implementation of resolution 2139, blaming both the government and opposition for escalating violence and blocking aid to millions of Syrians.

Mar 24 – US State Department announced the resumption of non-lethal assistance to moderate rebel factions, including tens of millions of dollars in ambulances, communications equipment, and pickup trucks.

Mar 24 – HRW reports satellite evidence revealing the Syrian government’s continued indiscriminate air campaign on populated, opposition-held parts of Aleppo, which violate UNSC resolution 2139, demanding a halt to attacks on civilians.
Mar 25 – LAS begins two-day summit in Kuwait, during which JSE Brahimi appeals to states to stop supplying weapons to rebels, warning that the “whole region is in danger.” Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia calls for increased support to rebels and asks the LAS to grant Syria’s suspended seat to the SOC despite the opposition body not having yet met the legal requirements to do so.

Mar 28 – HRC adopts a resolution (32 for, 4 against, 11 abstentions) extending the mandate of the CoI for one year, demanding that the Syrian authorities meet their responsibility to protect, and condemning continued violations of IHL and human rights law by the Syrian government and affiliated forces that may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity.

Mar 28 – UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos briefs the UNSC on the implementation of Resolution 2139, saying that the violence has only intensified and reporting no improvement in the humanitarian situation.

Mar 30 – Hezbollah’s leader Hassan Nasrallah says the group will continue fighting in Syria as its resistance “will remain solid.”

Apr 1 – SOHR puts the death toll at over 150,000 people, including 51,212 civilians.

Apr 3 – Friends of Syria Core Group (“London 11”) calls for the Assad regime to forgo holding a presidential election, saying it would be entirely inconsistent with the Geneva Communiqué and a “parody of democracy,” being conducted in the midst of a conflict, only in regime-controlled areas, and with millions of Syrians displaced from the country.

Apr 3 – UNHCR reports the number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon now tops 1 million.

Apr 3 – UN Relief Works Agency releases a report on the devastating socioeconomic effects of the crisis, saying that “even if the conflict ceased now and GDP grew at an average rate of five per cent each year, it is estimated that it would take the Syrian economy 30 years to return to the economic level of 2010.”

Apr 4 – OPCW-UN joint mission confirms the removal of the 12th consignment of Syria’s chemicals.

Apr 8 – UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay briefs the UNSC

Apr 10 – UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos condemns car bomb attacks in a Homs shopping district that killed over 20 people, saying attacks on civilians war crimes and possible crimes against humanity.

Apr 14 – EU Foreign Affairs Council meets on the situation in Syria, condemning the continued aerial bombardment by the regime, deploring the lack of progress on the implementation of UNSC Resolution 2139, and calling upon all parties to comply immediately.

Apr 14 - OPCW-UN joint mission confirms the removal of the 13th and 14th consignments of Syria’s chemicals, bringing the total removal to 65%.

Apr 22 – OPCW-UN joint mission confirms the removal of 86% of Syria’s chemicals.
Apr 23 – Heads of OCHA, UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP and WHO appeal to all parties to the conflict to enable unconditional humanitarian access to all people in need, lift the sieges, end the indiscriminate bombing and shelling of civilians, and stop violations of international humanitarian law.

Apr 24 – OPCW-UN joint mission confirms a further shipment of Syria’s chemicals, bringing the total removed to 92.5%.

Apr 29 – OPCW announces the creation of a fact-finding mission to investigate allegations of the use of chlorine gas.

Apr 30 – UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos briefs the UNSC, conveying her extreme concern by continued evidence of violations by all parties of the “most fundamental provisions of human rights and humanitarian law,” and asking the UNSC to “put people before politics.”

May 3 – Syrian Supreme Constitutional Court announces three candidates, including President Assad, for the presidential elections to be held in June.

May 4 – Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Egypt meet with UNHCR to appeal for greater efforts to address the Syrian refugee crisis, urging donors to fulfill pledges made.

May 7 – Head of the SOC, Ahmad Jarba, visits Washington and asks the US for “efficient weapons to face [government] attacks, including air raids,” in order to “change the balance of power.”

May 13 – UNSG announces the resignation of JSE Brahimi, effective May 31.

May 14 – UNHCR reports that Syria is now the “largest internal displacement crisis in the world,” with 9,500 people being displaced daily inside the country.

May 15 – “Friends of Syria” meet in London to “discuss how best to significantly step-up support to the Syrian opposition, make urgent progress on improving the deteriorating humanitarian crisis and reinvigorate a political process that has stalled due to regime intransigence.”

May 19 – SOHR puts death toll at over 162,000, including at least 54,000 civilians.

May 21 – UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay condemns the “flagrant disregard for international human rights and humanitarian law – both by the Government and some armed groups – that has led to tremendous suffering for civilians in Aleppo,”

May 21 – ICRC says it has begun distributing emergency food rations to over 60,000 displaced people in areas that have not received aid in nine months.

May 22 – Russia and China veto a UNSC resolution that would have referred the situation in Syria to the ICC for investigation.
May 23 – UNSG **condemns** a mortar attack that killed 21 people, saying the international community should unite in stopping the conflict and find ways to hold accountable perpetrators of atrocities in Syria.

May 25 – UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos **condemns** a May 24 attack on a humanitarian warehouse in Douma, Eastern Ghouta.

May 26 – Jordan expels Syria’s ambassador after he criticized a Jordanian politician for speaking out against Assad.

May 30 – UN Special Rapporteurs release a joint statement emphasizing that vetoing the UNSC resolution aimed at referring the situation to the ICC “leaves the door wide open for new atrocities in the ongoing conflict.”

May 31 – JSE Brahimi resigns.

June 3 – Syria holds presidential elections. Assad is reelected with nearly 89 percent of the vote.

June 4 – UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos **reports** that in the three months since the UNSC passed Resolution 2139, violence continues to rise and the resolution is not being implemented on the ground.

June 13 – Germany extends its humanitarian admission program for Syrian refugees by an additional 10,000 places, offering a total of 20,000 places.

June 19 – UNHCR **opens** a new office in the southern governorate of Suweida in order to “support the increasing number of internally displaced Syrians.”

June 26 – US President Obama requests $500 million from Congress to train and equip members of the Syrian opposition.

June 29 – Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant announces a new caliphate and formally change its name to the “Islamic State.”

July 3 – UNHCR **warns** of “grave risks” for Syrian refugees if funding gaps are not closed by the end of 2014, calling upon the international community to do more.

July 10 – UNSG **appoints** Staffan de Mistura as the new UN Special Envoy for Syria (SES).

July 11 – UNHCR releases a new **report** saying that Europe is shouldering a small part of the Syrian refugee problem and urging its countries to do more and “implement a comprehensive response based on their responsibilities under international and regional law.”

July 14 – UNSC unanimously adopts Resolution 2165, authorizing the UN to deliver cross-border humanitarian aid through Jordan, Turkey and Iraq without the consent of the Syrian government.

July 17 – HRC holds an interactive dialogue with the CoI, who reports that the conflict has reached a “tipping point, threatening the entire region.”
July 25 – CoI says that gross human rights violations continue in Syria with full-fledged impunity, and implores all UN member states to “interrupt their support in terms of weapons” to both sides.

July 28 – UNSC adopts a Presidential Statement voicing grave concern over ISIS seizures of oilfields and pipelines in Syria and Iraq, and condemning engagement with ISIS and other extremist groups by any member-state.

July 30 – UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos briefs the UNSC, reporting that flagrant violations of international law and obstructions to aid deliveries continue by both sides, with attacks on medical facilities at their highest levels since December 2012.

July 31 – US announces another $378 million in humanitarian assistance for Syria

Aug 5 – WFP reports making “significant progress” over the last few weeks in reaching more Syrians affected by violence, many in besieged areas.

Aug 15 – UNSC adopts a resolution condemning systematic and widespread abuses of human rights and IHL, including indiscriminate killing of civilians by terrorist groups, particularly the Islamic State and the Al-Nusra Front; expressing concern that parts of Iraq and Syria are under the control of these groups; and placing six individuals affiliated with the groups on the UNSC Al-Qaida sanctions list.

Aug 20 – UNSG welcomes the destruction of Syria’s declared chemical weapons material.

Aug 22 – OHCHR releases a new report putting the Syrian death toll at over 191,000.

Aug 27 – CoI releases its eighth report on the situation of human rights in Syria, which says that mass atrocities by government forces and non-state armed groups continue to take place, causing immeasurable suffering to civilians.

Sept 1 – HRW reports evidence that Islamic State forces have used cluster munitions.

Sept 16 – HRC holds an interactive dialogue with the CoI, who says that the war is worsening daily and that there are no words left do “depict the gravity of the crimes committed inside Syria.”

Sept 17 – US Congress passes President Obama’s plan to train and arm “moderate” Syrian rebels to battle ISIL fighters.

Sept 18 – WFP says it is running out of funds for operations in Syria and neighboring countries and has reached a “critical point where drastic cutbacks are unavoidable.”

Sept 23 – US, Bahrain, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates launch airstrikes against ISIL targets in Syria.

Sept 23 – HRC passes a resolution (32 in favor, 5 against, 10 abstentions) condemning violations of IHL and international human rights law and demanding that the government uphold its responsibility to protect its population.
Sept 24 – UNHCR puts the number of Syrian refugees at over 3 million.

Sept 24 – UNSC adopts a Chapter 7 resolution condemning violent extremism, demanding that all foreign terrorist fighters disarm and cease participation in armed conflict, and calling upon member states to prevent arming or supporting terrorists, including through ensuring that states’ domestic laws criminalize joining or supporting terrorist organizations.

Sept 26 – ICRC calls upon all parties to the conflicts in Syria and Iraq to “uphold the fundamental principle of human dignity, to spare the civilian population the effects of the hostilities and to facilitate neutral, independent and impartial humanitarian activities.”

Sept 30 – UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos briefs the UNSC, saying the violence has spread to areas previously not affected and the plight of civilians has worsened, with 11 million people inside Syria requiring urgent humanitarian assistance, 6.4 million of whom are internally displaced.

Oct 1 – UN-OPCW Joint Mission completes its mission and shuts down.

Oct 1 – UNSG condemns a bomb attack in Homs and calls upon all warring sides to end the indiscriminate use of any weapons, as well as international actors to redouble efforts to end the conflict.

Oct 7 – UNSG and OHCHR voice grave concern over the offensive by ISIL on Kobane, Syria, where 10,000 civilians are trapped and at risk of atrocities perpetrated by ISIL.

Oct 10 – SES Staffan de Mistura warns that if Kobane falls to ISIL the remaining civilians will be “most likely massacred,” and reiterates the UNSG’s call to the international community to take action to protect civilians there.

Oct 20 – UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos reports that over 10 million people have been displaced or fled Syria, with over 1.6 million refugees estimated in Turkey, 1.1 million in Lebanon, and over 619,000 in Jordan. She calls upon the international community to “remember the suffering of the Syrian people and act.”

Oct 21 – Five UNICEF trucks are able to cross battle lines in Aleppo to deliver aid for children in Afrin, where no humanitarian assistance had been delivered in at least 12 months.

Oct 29 – OCHA Operations Director John Ging says that Syria is the “biggest humanitarian crisis we face today in the world” that is only getting worse, and calls upon the international community to provide assistance “beyond humanitarian engagement” to deal with the fallout.

Oct 30 – SES Staffan de Mistura briefs the UNSC, proposing freeze zones in Aleppo to stop the conflict and “build a political process at a local level and then eventually at the national level.”

Oct 30 – Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Kyung-wha Kang briefs the UNSC, reporting that “the humanitarian situation in Syria continues to worsen and the level of violence, death and destruction remains unrelenting,” with children bearing the brunt of the conflict.
Oct 31 – UNSC issues a press statement expressing deep concern at the continued high level of violence in Syria and condemning all violence against civilians, calling upon all parties to immediately implement UNSC Resolutions 2139 and 2165.

Nov 9 – Syrian government issues a statement saying President Assad is ready to study the plan proposed by SES Staffan de Mistura to “freeze” fighting in Aleppo.

Nov 9 – SOHR reports that over 1,000 people, including over 600 ISIL fighters and over 300 Kurdish forces, have been killed in Kobane since the group launched its offensive to take the town.

Nov 21 – UNGA Third Committee adopts a resolution deploring and condemning the continued widespread and systematic gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms and all violations of IHL by the Syrian authorities, armed groups and ISIL, and stressing that the primary responsibility to protect the Syrian population lies with the Syrian authorities.

Nov 25 – UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos briefs the UNSC, saying that despite the progress, OCHA still faces “considerable challenges in implementing resolutions 2139 and 2165” and continues to fall short of meeting the humanitarian needs of Syrians. She reports that with nearly half of the all Syrians forced to flee from their homes, this is the “largest number of people displaced from conflict in the world.”

Dec 2 – SOHR puts the death toll at 202,354 people.

Dec 3 – UN-OPCW Joint Mission head Sigrid Kaag gives her final briefing to the UNSC on the remaining tasks in the implementation of Resolution 2118.

Dec 8 – SES Staffan de Mistura meets officials in Turkey as part of regional consultations aimed at implementing his proposal to “freeze” the conflict in Aleppo to pave the way for ending the war.

Dec 17 – UNSC adopts Resolution 2191, renewing for 12 months UNSC Resolution 2165, which authorizes the use of routes across conflict lines and several border crossings for humanitarian assistance into Syria.

Dec 18 – UNGA passes a resolution (127 in favor, 13 against, 48 abstentions) condemning widespread and systematic violations of human rights and IHL by the Syrian authorities and various armed groups, including ISIL; urging all parties to take appropriate steps to protect civilians, including members of minority ethnic and religious communities; and stressing that the primary responsibility to protect the Syrian population lies with the Syrian authorities.

Dec 28 – SOHR reports that ISIL killed 1,878 people in Syria during the previous 6 months, most of whom were civilians.
2015:

Jan 5 – Government of Lebanon imposes new visa restrictions for Syrians attempting to cross into Lebanon in order to limit the number of refugees entering the country.

Jan 6 – UN-OPCW Joint Mission briefs the UNSC on its latest report on Syria, which concludes with “a high degree of confidence that chlorine has been used as a weapon” in the conflict. While the report does not attribute blame, it suggests that only the Syrian government was capable of delivering the chlorine attacks in the form of barrel bombs dropped from helicopters.

Jan 6 – UNICEF reports that the Syrian conflict has had a terrible impact on children’s education, with at least 68 attacks on schools across the country in 2014, killing at least 160 children, and that by the end of 2014 the conflict affected more than 8 million children, 5.6 million inside the country and 1.7 million living as refugees in neighboring countries.

Jan 14 – UNHCR publishes a report showing that two-thirds of Syrian refugees across Jordan are living below the national poverty line, and urges international action and financial support to tackle this growing problem.

Jan 15 – SES Staffan de Mistura calls the conflict in Syria a “disgrace” that has set back the country 40 years, saying “It is a true tragedy that people all over Syria continue to be living under constant fear of barrel bombs, mortar attacks, rockets, aerial bombing, car bombs, kidnappings, and extrajudicial killings.”