



## Timeline of International Response to the Situation in Syria

Beginning with dates of a few key events that initiated the unrest, this timeline provides a chronological list of important news and actions from local, national, and international actors in response to the situation in Syria since protests began in March 2011. [[Skip to 2012](#)]

### Acronyms:

EU – European Union  
CoI – Commission of Inquiry on Syria  
FSA – Free Syrian Army  
GCC – Gulf Cooperation Council  
HRC – Human Rights Council  
HRW – Human Rights Watch  
ICC – International Criminal Court  
ICRC – International Committee of the Red Cross  
JSE – UN-Arab League Joint Special Envoy to Syria  
NATO – North Atlantic Treaty Organization  
OIC – Organization of Islamic Cooperation  
OHCHR – Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
PACE – Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe  
SARC – Syrian Arab Red Crescent  
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

## 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** – The Syrian government resigns amid the wave of unrest.

**Apr 21** – Assad issues [a decree](#) ending Syria’s 48-year state of emergency, simultaneously permitting public gatherings and controlled demonstrations.

**Apr 29** – 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** – The 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** – The 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** – The 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** – The 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](#), Special Advisers of the UN Secretary-General 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** – The 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** – The Arab League releases its first [statement](#) strongly condemning the violence in Syria.

**Aug 7** – Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah recalls his 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** – The 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** – The HRC holds a special 17<sup>th</sup> 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 Arab League chief 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** – The 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** – Arab League chief Nabil al-Arabi 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** – The 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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** – The 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 Arab League 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** – The European 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** – The 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** – The 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** – The three members of the HRC’s CoI on Syria begin the preliminary consultations of their 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 66<sup>th</sup> UNGA session, in which he called for the Syrian regime to “exercise restraint.”

**Sept 27** – The 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** – The 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** – The United Nations human rights 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** – The 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 spokesman 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** – Iraqi 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** – The leader of the 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** – The [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** – The 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** – 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 Arab League, creating a committee to oversee the situation and giving Syria 15 days to enact a cease-fire.

**Oct 16** – The Arab League 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** – The UNSG [urges](#) Assad to accept the HRC's 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** – The UN calls on Syria to end its raids into Lebanon in search of opposition members and army deserters seeking refuge.

**Oct 20** – The 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** – The Arab League 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** – The 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** – King Abdullah of Jordan expresses his “great concern,” given that 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** – Due to “credible threats against his personal safety,” US Ambassador in Syria Robert Ford is brought back to Washington

**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** – A delegation from the Arab League headed by Qatar meets with Syrian officials in Damascus to encourage Assad to end the bloodshed and implement reforms.

**Oct 26** – Addressing the UNGA Third Committee, US Ambassador Ronald Goddard [criticizes](#) Syria’s human rights abuses and denial of rights to its citizens.

**Oct 27** – Members of the European 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 Arab League should demand the Syrian government allows independent civilian monitors to observe the activity on the ground.

**Oct 28** – An Arab League official said 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 protesters.

**Oct 28** – Commander of the FSA 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** – The 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** – Damascus agrees to fully accept the Arab League’s 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** – The UNSG and Catherine Ashton welcome the agreement between Syria and the Arab League but qualify their support with [statements](#) stressing the need for immediate implementation of the plan.

**Nov 4** – Syria’s interior ministry 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** – The Arab League schedules an emergency meeting in Cairo for November 12 in response to Syria’s failure to implement the plan.

**Nov 8** – The UN reports the [death toll](#) in Syria to be over 3,500 despite the Government’s alleged full acceptance of the Arab League plan.

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

**Nov 8** – British Foreign Secretary 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** – The Arab League 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 Arab League

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

**Nov 17** – A Chinese 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** – The 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** – The UNGA 3<sup>rd</sup> Committee approves by a vote of 122-13 a [nonbinding resolution](#) condemning the regime’s violence and calling on Syrian authorities to implement the Arab League’s peace plan “without further delay.”

**Nov 27** – The Arab League 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** – The 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** – The 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** – The 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** – The Arab League 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 Arab League revokes economic sanctions and Syria’s suspension from the League.

**Dec 6** – Washington 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** – The 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** – The 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 Arab League peace agreement.

**Dec 20** – The White House 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** – The 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** – The 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 Arab League peace plan.

**Dec 26** – Observer teams from the Arab League arrive 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 Arab League protocol which is to protect the Syrian people.”

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

**Jan 3** – The Arab League 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** – The Arab League 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 Arab League 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 Arab League 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 Arab League observer quits over the mission’s ineffectiveness, calling it a “farce” and describing Syria as a “humanitarian disaster.”

**Jan 11** – Chief of Arab League, Nabil el-Araby 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** – The Arab League chief 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 Arab League’s plan to mediate a political transition in Syria, saying it is “long past time” that the Council passed a resolution.

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

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

**Jan 30** – The UNSG begins deliberations on the draft resolutions tabled by Morocco, which condemns the violence, endorses the Arab League 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** – The 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** – Gulf Sands 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 Arab League 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** – The 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** – The 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** – The UNSG [says](#) the “appalling brutality [...] is a grim harbinger of worse to come” in Syria and that the Arab League 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** – The 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** – The UNGA adopts a [nonbinding resolution](#) condemning the regime’s violence and demanding that the government implement all provisions of the Arab League 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** – The CoI on Syria 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** – The UNSG [appoints Kofi Annan](#) as the UN-Arab League 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** – The 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** – The 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** – The EU imposes a new round of sanctions that include travel bans and asset freezes on 7 Syrian cabinet ministers for their role in the crackdown.

**Feb 28** – The 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** – The 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** – The 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** – The 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 5** – Canada announces it will close its embassy in Syria due to the ongoing violence and “deteriorating situation.”

**Mar 6** – The 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** – The 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 Arab League.

**Mar 13** – The 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.”

**Mar 15** – The 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** – The 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 Arab League 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** – The 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** – The 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** – The 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** – The 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** – The 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 Arab League 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** – The 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** – The “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** – The 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** – The 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** – The 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** – The 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 Arab League 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** – The 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** – The UNSC unanimously adopts [Resolution 2024](#), authorizing an advance team of 30 unarmed observers to report on the implementation of the ceasefire.

**Apr 14** – The 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** – Ban Ki-moon [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** – The “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** – The 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** – The 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** – The 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** – The SNC releases a [statement](#) welcoming the adoption of Resolution 2043.

**Apr 24** – The UN’s World Food Programme announces that it aims to deliver food aid to 500,000 people in Syria in the coming weeks.

**Apr 24** – The UNSC urges the rapid deployment of UNSMIS 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** – The UNSG [appoints](#) Major General Robert Mood as Chief Military Observer and Head of Mission of UNSMIS.

**Apr 28** – The 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** – The 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** – The [SNC urges](#) the UNSC, UNSMIS 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** – The 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** – The US officially [continues](#) the national emergency with respect to actions of the government of Syria, citing “the regime’s own brutality and repression of its 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** – The [UNSG](#) and JSE made statements condemning twin bombings in Damascus that reportedly killed 55 Syrians and wounded over 300 others

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

**May 11** – The 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.