

A draft UNGA resolution proposed by dissidents and human rights activists, as adopted in the Declaration of Dissidents for Universal Human Rights, at the We Have A Dream: Global Summit Against Discrimination and Persecution, United Nations, New York City, 22 September 2011. www.ngosummit.org

Draft resolution for the General Assembly

Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and recalling the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant human rights instruments,

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and the duty to fulfill the obligations they have undertaken under the various international instruments in this field,

Reaffirming also the resolutions adopted at the Special Sessions of the Human Rights Council, held in April and August 2011, regarding the deteriorating situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic,

Deeply concerned that the urgent calls contained in the above-mentioned resolutions, as well as related statements by other United Nations bodies concerning the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic, have not been heeded,

Expressing deep regret at the deaths of thousands of innocent people in connection with the recent and ongoing peaceful protests in Syria,

Deeply concerned also at the resort by the Syrian authorities to systematic and deliberate violence against peaceful protesters, torture, arrests and intimidation of political opponents, and restrictions on the freedoms of speech, press and assembly,

Calling upon the Government of Syria to surrender power to a democratically elected government that respects human rights,

1. *Strongly condemns* the ongoing, grave and systematic human rights violations by the Syrian authorities, including arbitrary executions, excessive use of force, the killing and persecution of peaceful protesters and human rights defenders, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, torture and ill-treatment of detainees, including children;

2. *Deplores* the continued indiscriminate attacks on the Syrian population and calls upon the Syrian authorities to cease immediately all acts of violence against its population;

3. *Calls* upon the Syrian authorities to immediately put an end to all human rights violations, to protect their population and to fully comply with their obligations under international human rights law;

4. *Strongly urges* the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to release immediately all prisoners of conscience and arbitrarily detained persons, including those who were detained before the recent events, as well as to cease immediately any intimidation, persecution and arbitrary arrests of individuals, including journalists, lawyers and human rights defenders;

5. *Urges* further the Syrian authorities to allow independent and international media to operate in Syria without undue restrictions; to allow access to the Internet and telecommunications networks for all, and to lift censorship on reporting;

6. *Expresses concern* about the humanitarian situation and urges the Syrian authorities to ensure timely, safe and unhindered access for all humanitarian agencies and workers and to ensure the safe passage of humanitarian and medical supplies into the country;

8. *Regrets* that previous calls for a genuine dialogue, to effectively address the legitimate aspirations and concerns of the Syrian population aimed at the promotion and protection of their human rights, have not been answered, and deeply regrets also the lack of progress in the implementation of the announced commitments on political reform by the Syrian authorities;

9. *Encourages* relevant United Nations special procedures mandate holders, within their respective mandates, to continue to pay particular attention to the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, and urges the Syrian authorities to cooperate with those mandate holders, including by allowing country visits;

10. *Stresses* the need for an international, credible, transparent, independent and prompt investigation into violations of international law, including international human rights law and to hold those responsible to account, including forces under Government control;

11. *Calls upon* the Human Rights Council to urgently establish the mandate of a Special Rapporteur for human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic, to monitor the situation in the country, collect information and recommend to the UN system actions to be taken;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, including options and recommendations to improve its implementation, and to submit an interim report to the Human Rights Council at its nineteenth session;

13. *Decides* to continue its examination of the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic at its sixty-seventh session under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights.”