

April 29, 2011 at 2:35pm

The current human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic in the context of recent events

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations and by General Assembly resolution 60/251,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and relevant international human rights treaties to which they are party, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and that all States are bound to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling Article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights with respect to rights that may not be derogated from under any circumstances, even in public emergency,

Expressing deep regret at the deaths of hundreds of people in connection with the recent and ongoing political protests in Syria, and *grave concern* with respect to alleged deliberate killings, arrests, and instances of torture of peaceful protestors by the Syrian authorities,

Noting the recent statement made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations calling for an independent, transparent and effective investigation into the situation in Syria,

Noting also the recent statements by United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and certain UN Special Rapporteurs with respect to Syria which call for an end to killings, as well as for accountability, protection of human rights defenders and respect for freedom of expression,

Further noting the stated intention of the Syrian Arab Republic to take steps for reform, and *urging* the Syrian Arab Republic to take urgent and concrete measures to meet the legitimate demands of its people, including by enlarging the scope of political participation and dialogue, following through on the abolition of the High State Security Court and the lifting of measures restricting the exercise of fundamental freedoms,

Reaffirming that all UN member states shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations,

Recalling that General Assembly resolution 60/251 requires Member States to take into account the contribution of candidates for membership to the Human Rights Council to the promotion and protection of human rights when electing new members,

1. *Unequivocally condemns* the use of lethal violence against peaceful protestors by the Syrian authorities and the hindrance of access to medical treatment and *urges* the Syrian Government to immediately put an end to all human rights violations, protect its population, and

respect fully all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression and freedom of assembly; *further urges* the authorities to allow access to the Internet and telecommunications networks and to lift censorship on reporting, including by allowing appropriate access by foreign journalists;

2. ~~*Also strongly e*~~*Calls upon* the Syrian Government to immediately release all prisoners of conscience and arbitrarily detained persons, including those who were detained before the recent events, as well as to immediately cease any intimidation, persecution and arbitrary arrests of individuals, including lawyers, human rights defenders and journalists;

3. *Urges* the Syrian authorities to refrain from any reprisals against people who have taken part in peaceful demonstrations and to allow the provision of urgent assistance to those in need, including by guaranteeing appropriate access to human rights and humanitarian organizations;

4. *Stresses* the need for the Syrian authorities to launch a credible and impartial investigation in accordance with international standards and to prosecute those responsible for attacks on peaceful protestors in the Syrian Arab Republic, including by forces under Government control;

5. *Urges* the Syrian authorities to enlarge the scope of political participation aimed at ensuring civil liberties and enhancing social justice;

~~6. *Decides* to urgently dispatch a Fact Finding Mission, to be appointed by the President of the Council, to investigate all alleged violations of international human rights law in the Syrian Arab Republic, to establish the facts and circumstances of such violations and of the crimes perpetrated and, where possible, to identify those responsible, to make recommendations, in particular, on accountability measures, all with a view to ensuring that those individuals responsible are held accountable, and to report to the Council at its seventeenth session, and calls upon the Syrian authorities to fully cooperate with the Commission;~~

~~7. *Requests* the Secretary General and the High Commissioner to provide all the administrative, technical and logistical assistance required to enable the above mentioned commission of inquiry to fulfil its mandate;~~

68. *Encourages* relevant thematic special-procedures mandate holders, within their respective mandates, to pay particular attention to the human rights situation in Syria, and urges Syrian authorities to cooperate with these thematic mandate-holders, including by allowing country visits;

79. ~~*Encourages*~~*Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to urgently dispatch a mission—carry out a country visit to the Syrian Arab Republic to investigate all alleged violations of international human rights law and to establish the facts and circumstances of such violations and of the crimes perpetrated, with a view to avoiding impunity and ensuring full accountability, and to provide a preliminary report and oral update on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic to the Council at its seventeenth session.

and to submit a follow-up report to the Council at its eighteenth session, and further requests the High Commissioner to organize an interactive dialogue on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic during the eighteenth session of the Council;

8. ~~and urges~~ Calls upon the Syrian Government to cooperate fully with and grant access to personnel from the mission dispatched by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights;

9. Requests the Secretary General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide all the administrative, technical and logistical assistance required to enable the mission to fulfil its mandate;

~~10. Requests the High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide a preliminary report and oral update on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic to the Council at its seventeenth session, and to submit a follow-up report to the Council at its eighteenth session, as well as to organize an interactive dialogue on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic during the eighteenth session of the Council;~~

104. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.



HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
16th special session of the Human Rights Council
29th April 2011

ROLL CALL VOTE

ITEM: ^{CURRENT} The situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic ^{IN THE CONTEXT OF}
SUBJECT: L.1 ^{RECENT EVENTS.}

	COUNTRY	YES	NO	Abst.
1.	Angola			
2.	Argentina	21		
3.	Bahrain			
4.	Bangladesh		5	
5.	Belgium	22		
6.	Brazil	23		
7.	Burkina Faso	24		
8.	Cameroon			6
9.	Chile	25		
10.	China		6	
11.	Cuba		7	
12.	Djibouti			7
13.	Ecuador		8	
14.	France	26		
15.	Gabon		9	
16.	Ghana	1		
17.	Guatemala	2		
18.	Hungary	3		
19.	Japan	4		
20.	Jordan			
21.	Kyrgyzstan	5		
22.	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (SUSPENDED MEMBERSHIP)			
23.	Malaysia		1	
24.	Maldives	6		
25.	Mauritania		2	
26.	Mauritius	7		
27.	Mexico	8		
28.	Nigeria			1
29.	Norway	9		
30.	Pakistan		3	
31.	Poland	10		
32.	Qatar			
33.	Republic of Korea	11		
34.	Republic of Moldova	12		
35.	Russian Federation		4	
36.	Saudi Arabia			2
37.	Senegal	13		
38.	Slovakia	14		
39.	Spain	15		
40.	Switzerland	16		
41.	Thailand			3
42.	Uganda			4
43.	Ukraine			5
44.	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	17		
45.	United States of America	18		
46.	Uruguay	19		
47.	Zambia	20		
TOTAL		(26)	(9)	(7)

