

Syria: Security Council condemns rights abuses and use of force against civilians UN News

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(...) The Security Council today condemned the widespread violation of human rights in Syria and the use of force against civilians by the country's security forces, calling for an end to the violence and urging all sides to act with restraint and refrain from reprisals, including attacks against State institutions. (...)

"Those responsible for the violence should be held accountable," the Council said in a presidential statement read by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri of India, which holds the Council's rotating presidency this month. (...)

The Council took note of Syria's stated commitment to the implementation of reforms, but expressed regret over the lack of progress, calling on the Government to carry out the promised political changes. (...)

It stressed that "the only solution to the current crisis in Syria is through an inclusive and Syrian-led political process, with the aim of effectively addressing the legitimate aspirations of and concerns of the population which will allow the full exercise of fundamental freedoms for its entire population, including that of expression and peaceful assembly."

The Council called upon the Syrian authorities to respond to the humanitarian needs of people in areas affected by the unrest by ceasing the use of force to allow quick and unhindered access by relief workers.

The Syrian authorities should also cooperate fully with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights ([OHCHR](#)), the Council added. It requested the [Secretary-General](#) Ban Ki-moon to update it on the situation in Syria within seven days.

Lebanon, one of the Council's non-permanent members, dissociated itself from the presidential statement, but did not seek to block its adoption.

Mr. Ban welcomed the Council's statement, saying it sent a "clear message from the

international community” to the Syrian authorities to stop their “brutally shocking” actions. He once again urged Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to cease all acts of violence, stating that the aspirations of the citizens of the country must be addressed. (...)

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