

Syria Veto Costs Lives: U.N. Security Council Members Must Uphold Their 'Responsibility to Protect' Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect 1 February 2012

Syria stands at a critical juncture between civil war and a potential resolution of the conflict as envisioned in the Arab League's plan to end the violence. Previous use of the veto at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has cost lives.

By 4 October 2011 approximately 2,700 Syrians had been killed when Russia and China vetoed a UNSC resolution that would have condemned the grave human rights violations and sent a strong, collective message to President Bashar al-Assad that he must halt the bloodshed. The veto prevented action and enabled further killings.

Since then the death toll has doubled. Over 5,400 people have been killed. The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (GCR2P) calls upon all UN member states to support the new Syria resolution put forward by Morocco at the UNSC. (...)

Russia has a critical role to play in resolving the Syrian crisis. But Russia must uphold their 2005 commitment to the

Responsibility to Protect

and abstain from using their veto as crimes against humanity continue in Syria. (...)

Yesterday the UNSC debated the Syrian crisis. Meanwhile in Syria an estimated 20 people were killed. Now is not the time for vetoes. Now is the time for the UNSC to act.

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