

The UN Security Council has the responsibility to take action to end the bloodshed in Syria FIDH 23 February 2012

(...) The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), alarmed by escalating violence in Syria, calls on the UN Security Council to immediately reopen discussion on the matter and take firm and decisive action to end the bloodshed and protect the Syrian people. On February 20th 2012, Syrian forces continued to bombard the city of Homs, ignoring calls from the International Committee of the Red Cross for a two-hour daily truce to facilitate delivery of humanitarian aid to civilians trapped by the unremitting violence. (...)

(...) FIDH has repeatedly condemned the bombing of residential areas and homes, and recalled that the indiscriminate targeting of civilian populations amounts to crimes against humanity. In addition to large-scale attacks, the Syrian regime has also been targeting human rights defenders, who are increasingly facing systematic arrest, detention and acts of torture and ill-treatment. (...)

It is clear that since China and Russia vetoed the February 4th UN Security Council resolution on Syria, the Syrian regime has escalated its violent assault against its people, and the continued flow of arms into the country has further militarized the conflict. (...)

(...) In light of the horrifying situation in Syria that has now dragged on for over 11 months, the international community has called for immediate action to end the violence, exemplified by the February 14th UN General Assembly resolution that was adopted by an overwhelming majority of the world's countries. (...)

(...) FIDH calls on the Security Council to:

- Demand the government of Syria to immediately put an end to all human rights violations and attacks against civilians;

- Call on all parties in Syria to renounce violence and to stop all violent attacks or reprisals immediately;

- Demand the release of all political prisoners and persons detained arbitrarily owing to the recent incidents;

- Call on the government of Syria to guarantee the right to peaceful demonstration;

- Call upon the Syrian authorities to allow safe and unhindered access to humanitarian organizations, human rights organizations, and national and international media;

- Call on all member states to take necessary steps to prevent the flow of arms into Syria;

- Refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court, to ensure that those responsible for serious human rights violations and crimes against humanity are brought to justice.

To read the full article, see [here](#) .

